



ARTISTIC EVALUATION

It should be noted the views expressed in this evaluation are intended to represent, as far as possible, an objective aesthetic judgement. Specialist advisors and officers should avoid making judgements based on their own personal tastes and preferences.

Artist/Company:	Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust
Venue:	Speirs Centre, Alloa
Title of Event:	Training course for tutors in Scottish Fusion Dance
Type of Event:	<i>training/workshop</i>
Date of Visit:	23 January 2009
Overall Rating:	Good
	<i>(Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. the particular strengths and weaknesses. If the management of the event affects the overall enjoyment of the event, please comment, but the overall rating should be based on the artistic merit of the event.)</i>
<p>The workshop was made up of 10 female teachers who came from predominantly the central belt. The session was very informal and aimed at raising the confidence of the group to work with the idea of Scottish Fusion dance – using Scottish dances to give the pattern of a new dance in a different dance style, such as hip hop, bollywood, etc.</p> <p>After a brief warm up, the group were taught the Scottish dances which were good to adapt, then guidance was given as what moves might be done instead. This was a good training session, with a lot of information imparted. I was only able to stay for 2 hours of the 4 hour workshop, but would have welcomed the opportunity to ‘do’ more fusion rather than just being shown examples. However, this was scheduled for the afternoon session.</p>	
Name: Susan Hay	Date: 2/2/09
Scottish Arts Council Officer	

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named above. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and to the management of the venue, if the venue is core funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report will form evidence for the Artistic Leadership and Public Engagement sections of the Quality Framework and be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Joint Board to report on the overall performance of its funded organisations.

Evaluators should enter their rating under each section, explaining briefly their reason for the rating with reference to their comments under each section. Ratings should be given in accordance with the following:

- 1 - Very Poor** – standard falls well below what is acceptable.
- 2 - Poor** – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.
- 3 - Competent** – routine rather than especially interesting.
- 4 - Good** – well conceived and executed
- 5 - Excellent** – conceived and executed to a high standard.

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, with particular reference to the strengths and weaknesses of the following:

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
All	Vision and imagination of work - Quality of ideas, skills in execution; if you've seen the work of this artist(s)/ company before, please comment on the comparison.	4	This workshop was to develop the skills of people who had worked with STDT in the past and others to be confident in teaching a 'fusion' dance class. The training day was led by STDT's Resident Dance Tutor Lisa Kennedy, who is experienced in developing this style of work. She led the class well, highlighting the necessity to teach and understand the Scottish dances first before moving onto 'fusing' them with other styles and music.
All (if relevant)	Curatorial/ programming vision/ selection Please indicate how the event originated eg from the exhibiting/ producing organisation, artist-led or commissioned. If the event is part of a Festival, please say how it contributes to the overall programme.		n/a
All	Success of event against stated aims - in the programme or other printed material, including how well it communicated the artistic themes. Education events – see ¹ below for guidance	4	The printed leaflets and the website say ' STDT requires additional tutors comfortable and familiar in delivering Scottish Fusion dance. This training day, lead by STDT's Resident Dance Tutor Lisa Kennedy, will equip the already competent dance tutor in this exciting dance form.' This was achieved as all enjoyed the session, and evaluation forms are all complementary about the session, with many rating the session very good.
All	Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate and engage. Where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.	4	Lisa led the session well, providing a teacher's pack and allowing time for people to write down notes. The pace of the day was fast as there was a lot of information to cover. I would have welcomed the opportunity to go over dances a bit more and to add in the fusion, rather than just being shown what might be used, but this was scheduled for later in the session, after I had to leave.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc		The choreography possible was defined by the structure of the Scottish dance used. Choreographic hints were provided in the pack. I was unable to stay for the choreographic section of the training, so have not rated this section.
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.		n/a

¹ Education is a bridge between artform excellence and increased access and participation, and it is people centred. Providing opportunities for learning and progressing in an artform or using an artform to address other, non-artistic, outcomes are equally valid; in either case a high quality strategic approach is required in order to benefit the participants and the organisation. Delivery can be through workshops, post/pre-show discussions, outreach work, etc aimed at any age group.

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Theatre, Dance	Direction - Concerns issues of interpretation, casting and presentation.		n/a
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.	3	A variety of recorded music was used, with appropriate rhythms for the dances.
Dance, Theatre	Design – costume, set, lighting. Take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue and, where appropriate, the touring schedule.		n/a
All	<p>Quality of Presentation/Engagement</p> <p>Performing Arts - technical presentation of the production (eg lighting and sound cues, etc).</p> <p>Crafts/Visual Arts - Use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang</p> <p>Education events - relevance/ appropriateness of presentation and teaching methodology (one to one, group, child centred); details of participant group and activity, including genre.</p>	5	<p>All present were fully engaged with the workshop, asking questions where possible and referring to the teacher's handbook provided for more information.</p> <p>Useful suggestions about to how to modify practise to work with different groups such as integrated groups, elderly and tots were made.</p>
All	<p>Audience</p> <p>Performing Arts - appropriateness of the production for the audience/participants; estimate the size and reaction</p> <p>Crafts/Visual Arts – time spent, interest, activity, and visitors' books comments, number of visitors/ participants at the time of visit</p> <p>Education/learning – pre-event involvement, participants/ schoolteachers reaction, understanding, commitment, enthusiasm, number involved, etc</p>		This was aimed at teachers with experience who would be able to deliver Scottish Fusion dance for STDT in the future(see comments already made above). All seemed enthusiastic about the session.
All	Additional Interpretative activity – what activities were available to enhance the experience of the event eg workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups? Please indicate age-groups targeted.	4	A teacher's pack was handed out which contained notes about the Scottish dances, a 'fused' dance and where to find appropriate music
All	Outcomes of education activity – what learning/skills development took place? What did participants take away with them? Are education resources being provided for follow up work? Is it strategically linked to the curriculum (formal or informal)?		<p>This was aimed at teachers –</p> <p>Skills development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of how to fuse Scottish dances with other styles of dance • understanding of using right music for ability level of class • modifying movements to allow to teach variety of groups • new dances

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
			The objective of the course was to provide STDT with new tutors for this style, so the future work could be indirectly linked to the curriculum.

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations. Please try to view the venue and the services, and interpretative material as though you had never visited it before eg if you did not know the venue's location, how easy would it be to find your way there, and to find your way around once you had arrived?

Criteria	Comment
Suitability of the venue for the event	The main entrance is up stairs, but the hall is fully accessible for wheelchairs. The floor was wooden and suitable for dancing on.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	There were posters in the window of the venue and lots of leaflets inside.
Publicity/ pre-publicity – leaflets, posters, websites, etc. What is produced, is it easy to understand and where can you get the information? Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event and comment on the company/organisation's website.	Information was available on the website.
Ease of booking and payment	£10 fee for tutors. Very easy to book yourself on the course.
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	The Stirling Speirs Centre is easily accessible in the middle of Alloa.
External signage and signposting	Clear signage on the rear of the building beside the car park.
Internal directional signage	Limited.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	Wheelchair access, no audio loops.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	12-4pm This seemed appropriate to those present.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Receptionist friendly and approachable.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	Not on teacher training pack handed out. On the website and other printed materials.

² In press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes, posters, company's website, notices display, exhibition materials, websites and advertising, recordings, publications, video,

3. Organisation's Comments (optional)

This is the organisation's opportunity to respond to points raised within this assessment. Please do not feel obliged to fill this section in. In the spirit of the Quality Framework, we would ask that any comments are self-evaluating, providing an insight as to why, if there is, a major disagreement of response between the organisation and the evaluation, in a constructive way.

This will not alter the rating given by the assessment, but will allow the organisation the opportunity to give their opinion/feedback. The Scottish Arts Council reserves the right to edit comments if they are deemed to be libellous or defamatory.

As the Scottish Arts Council implements the Quality Framework internally, we intend to publish artistic evaluations on organisations that we support regularly on our website. The final artistic evaluation, including the organisation's response will be published on a quarterly basis on our website.

Please keep your response to max 500 words. If we do not hear from you in 15 days, we will assume that you do not want to respond.