



Scottish Arts Council

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: Y Dance

Venue: The Space, Dundee

Title of Event: Project Y

Type of Event: (e.g. performance, exhibition, informal showing, work-in-progress, workshop, screening, lecture etc)
3 week summer project

Date of Visit: 26 July 2007 at The Space

Overall Rating (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.)

4- I attended rehearsals as part of this event. The atmosphere was one of total commitment, dedication of general 'buzz' to get the show ready. The young people were helping one another to get the moves and everyone was totally absorbed in the work. They seemed to be really thriving and the young folk I spoke to were really enjoying themselves.

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Date: 15/09/2007

Specialist Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please circle the relevant title

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, particularly in relation to new work or second productions	4	I watched rehearsals run by Kat McKeown and then Lizzie Perry. Great ideas and interesting choreography. 3 week project to create performance. Company of young dancers from across Scotland. Y Dance initiative.
Sometimes relevant for all especially Festivals	Curatorial/ programming vision/ selection Also indicate if the event has originated from the exhibiting/ producing organisation, part of a festival, artist-led, or commissioned	n/a	n/a
Dance, Theatre, Music, Education ¹ , Visual Arts - tutors	Quality of production/ teaching/ workshop – production/teaching/workshop's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material and how well the production/teaching/workshop communicated its artists' themes.		
Dance, Theatre, Music, Education, Visual Arts – tutors	Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate. Where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments. Education - presentation, details of teaching methodology (one to one, group, child centred), details of the class and what took place, genre and content	4	Excellent standard of skills from mixed ability group. All untrained (under 21) yet very committed and motivated.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	4	The two rehearsals I watched used the dancers skill level in interesting yet challenging ways.
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.	n/a	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.		On the day I visited, the young dancers were in a state of high anxiety- as were the choreographers. Filming was also taking place.
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.		Group in rehearsal so I only heard excerpts but seemed great.
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.		Not applicable at this stage of their preparation (still in production time)
All	<p>Quality of Presentation</p> <p>Performing Arts - technical presentation of the production (eg lighting and sound cues, etc).</p> <p>Visual Arts - Use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang</p>		
All	<p>Audience</p> <p>Performing Arts - appropriateness of the production for the audience/participants, estimate the size and reaction</p> <p>Visual Arts – time spent, interest, activity, and visitors' books comments, number of visitors/ participants at the time of visit</p> <p>Education/learning – participants/ schoolteachers reaction, understanding, commitment, enthusiasm, number involved, etc</p>		Good learning opportunity (peer and professional) which everyone seemed to be engaged in fully.
All	Events available/ groups targeted – workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups, pre-school/ primary/ secondary students, >18,>60 etc		
Education – any art form	Outcomes – what learning 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? Does it provide skills development?		

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	Project Y was a 'closed to public access' summer intensive held in a highly appropriate venue- The Space. The venue offered the group great facilities and (I hope!) inspired them.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	
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.	
Ease of booking and payment	
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	
External signage and signposting	
Internal directional signage	
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding - 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, broadcasts, computer programmes	

Criteria	Comment
etc.) Where the event is publicised in the programme brochure of another organisation (eg venue, gallery, etc) then SAC acknowledgement should appear against the particular programme entry for this event.	