



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: Dance Base
Title of Event : Dance Base Presents - YDance with Corryvreckan
Type of Event: *Performance*
Date of Visit: 16 August 2008
Overall Rating: 4 - GOOD

A highly visual and lively dance performance for ages 10 + combining movement, music and design to good effect to explore the stories and myths surrounding the whirlpool. An enjoyable performance suited to the target age of 10 +.

Name: Lesley Smith Date: 19 August 2008

Specialist Advisor

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.	5	Highly visual exciting and atmospheric dance inspired by the whirlpool Corryvreckan. Created specially for ages 10 + this duet captures the treacherous waters and mythical aura that surrounds the whirlpool. Movement, music and design are combined to create an exciting performance.
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.	4	This performance was presented as part of Dance Base's Fringe programme. The programme presents a range of international companies. Themes run through the overall programme which enable pieces to be grouped together. Corryvreckan was presented as part of the programme for families. The piece is choreographed by YDance Artistic Director Andy Howitt.
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	3	The event was publicised as being for children age 10 + . The piece had 5 separate themes relating to the whirlpool and the myths, which were outlined within programme. The event offered young people an opportunity to engage with visually exciting dance through the story of the whirlpool.
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	Beautiful choreography, technically proficient dancers and imaginative design combine to pull the audience into the story of the whirlpool. The whirlpool and characters of the Hag and the Viking are communicated through the exciting mix of specially commissioned music and energetic movement.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	4	This duet is presented by technically proficient dancers. The choreography uses the whole performance area to good effect. The opening sequence with the dancers in a rotating set with video scenes of the sea works very well and unfolds to tell the story of the whirlpool. The energetic choreography and the use of various props and costumes heighten the visual effect.
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.	4	The piece was well rehearsed. It was competently presented and performed. The two dancers were experienced and technically proficient performers.
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.	4	The music was commissioned from Alasdair Nicolson and suited the story of the whirlpool and worked well with the choreography. The music was recorded.
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.	5	The design by Robin Peoples was imaginative. The theme of the sea was carried through the costumes, a rotating set with video of the sea on the outside walls and the lighting. All combined to portray the sea and the myths surrounding the whirlpool to good effect.
All	Quality of Presentation/Engagement Performing Arts - technical presentation of the production (eg lighting and sound cues, etc). Crafts/Visual Arts - Use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang Education events - relevance/ appropriateness of presentation and teaching methodology (one to one, group, child centred); details of participant group and activity, including genre.	4	The performance went smoothly. There were no technical problems. The piece lasted 45 minutes without an interval. The programme ran on time.
All	Audience Performing Arts - appropriateness of the production for the audience/participants; estimate the size and reaction Crafts/Visual Arts – time spent, interest, activity, and visitors' books comments, number of visitors/ participants at the time of visit Education/learning – pre-event involvement, participants/ schoolteachers reaction, understanding, commitment, enthusiasm, number involved, etc		The audience response was positive. There were younger children in the audience who were a bit frightened of the character of the Hag. However the publicity clearly stated that it was for 10 + and these children were engaged with the performance. There was a moment in the middle of the piece when the children became a bit restless but overall the children and adults were engaged. The auditorium was about 30% full with families and a few adults.
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.		N/A
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)?		N/A

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 event was presented in Dance Base - very suitable. Dance Base is well equipped to present dance performances
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Posters and leaflets were on show at the venue. Programmes were offered free of charge. These had been printed in the Dance Base corporate style.
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.	The performance was publicised in the Fringe brochure and Dance Base brochure and also on the Dance Base website. The performance details were also on the YDance website.
Ease of booking and payment	I bought my ticket at Dance Base.
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	Easy to find and on regular public transport routes.
External signage and signposting	External signage is good.
Internal directional signage	Internal signage is good.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	Performance space is upstairs. There was a lift. Access into auditorium is flat – no steps.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	The event started at 12 noon and lasted for 45 minutes. This was a good time for families on a Saturday. The length was fine although there was a moment of restlessness from the children in the middle of the piece.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Excellent.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	Scottish Arts Council logo on programme and on Dance Base brochure.

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, broadcasts, computer programmes 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.

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.