



### 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: Tron Theatre, Glasgow**

**Title of Event : Under the Same Sky**

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

**Date of Visit: 17/06/08**

**Overall Rating: 4**

*(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.)*

This was an excellent production – well conceived and executed and a wonderful opportunity for the young people to explore and present their past and shared future in Glasgow.

Name: June Adamson \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 17/06/08 \_\_\_\_\_

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, please comment on the comparison.	5	Excellent vision to bring together a mixture of young people – asylum seekers and Glasgow residents. Imaginative and worthwhile venture
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.	5	Work began in Jan '08 when Y Dance invited asylum seekers across Glasgow to come together and explore a range of dance styles in a weekly dance group. Later in April, dance groups were started in 3 High Schools in Glasgow. This event was part of Refugee Week Scotland '08 which is organised by Scottish Refugee Council. Although not explicitly stated, I think the work was commissioned by the Refugee Council as the Y dance project of exploring what it means to be a "new Glaswegian" in 2008 was a direct exploration of the overall theme of Refugee Week which was entitled "different pasts, shared future."
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 <sup>1</sup> below for guidance	5	Stated aims very clear on both the Website of Tron theatre, Y Dance and on the Programme. Excellent premise on which to base ideas for creating dances. I thought they achieved these ideas very well.
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	Performers were all teenagers with a range of ability, some very talented, confident and others less sure and secure in their movements, nevertheless it was an excellent opportunity for all to develop a range of skills including performing and entertaining
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	4	Choreography was a mix of hip hop, break dancing, and contemporary. The choreography was skillfull in both blending the different styles and the number of groups and was enjoyable and entertaining to watch. There were 4 groups, 27 dancers in total. There were 10 dances plus a short film plus a Congalese band sang 3 songs. The opening and closing dances were performed by all 27 dancers.
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.		n/a

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<b>Artform</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments and key reasons for rating</b>
Theatre, Dance	<b>Direction</b> - Concerns issues of interpretation, casting and presentation.	4	The overall direction was very good. The ending of some of the dances would have been stronger if all the dancers had held the end position until blackout.
Dance, Theatre	<b>Use of music</b> – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.	5	Excellent choice and variety of music reflecting a number of cultures. The live Congalese band were excellent. The short film switching between migrating birds and interviews with individuals explaining how they came to arrive in Glasgow was a powerful addition to the overall performance.
Dance, Theatre	<b>Design</b> – costume, set, lighting. Take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue and, where appropriate, the touring schedule.	4	The costumes were simple but effective – brightly coloured T shirts and black leggings or trousers. The lighting was not a main feature of the performance.
All	<b>Quality of Presentation/Engagement</b>  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	Very relevant and appropriate production. This was a wonderful opportunity for the young people to express themselves in a skilful, creative and imaginative and entertaining way.
All	<b>Audience</b>  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 were very supportive and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event. I estimate about 100 audience members- many seemed to be family and friends. I thought the quality of the performance deserved a full house. Perhaps the audience numbers will build in the coming years as Project is set to continue for three years as The LankellyChase Foundation have promised funding.
All	<b>Additional Interpretative activity</b> – what activities were available to enhance the experience of the event eg workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups? Please indicate age-groups targeted.	4	Following the dance performance, the Congalese Music group – 6 piece band sang 3 songs. During the final song all the performers came on stage and danced freestyle. The boys were particularly entertaining.
All	<b>Outcomes of education activity</b> – 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)?	5	This was a very worthwhile learning experience for everyone – creating dances, integration of the different groups, learning new skills and developing existing talent, exploring quality of movement, different styles of dance and performing skills like cues, projection

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating

## 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	Ideal venue, in centre of Glasgow. Lovely intimate Theatre
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Programme was available free to audience
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.	Very easy to find information about the event on both Y Dance and Tron Theatre websites. It was also published in the Refugee Week Scotland '08 booklet.
Ease of booking and payment	I did this very easily online. There was no additional booking fee.
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	The venue is very accessible on main bus routes and 10 minute walk from Queen Street Station.
External signage and signposting	Building is very distinctive and easy to locate.
Internal directional signage	Very clear
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	There was a women in a wheelchair at the box Office when I arrived. One of the staff personally took her through into the Bar Area
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	40 mins dance plus Congalese Music Group. Total time 1 hour, 10 mins.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Box Office staff very welcoming and friendly
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding <sup>2</sup>	I did not see any acknowledgement of SAC funding on programme or website entry of performance

<sup>2</sup> 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.