



### 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.

<b>Artist/Company:</b>	<b>Dance Ihayami with the Wrigley Sisters</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Orkney Arts Theatre</b>
<b>Title of Event:</b>	<b>Shivaarpanam</b>
<b>Type of Event:</b> ( <i>e.g. performance, exhibition, informal showing, work-in-progress, workshop, screening, lecture etc</i> )	<b>Indian Dance</b>
<b>Date of Visit:</b>	<b>22 June 2008</b>
<b>Overall Rating:</b>	<b>4</b>
An engaging and beautifully presented performance.	
<b>Name:</b> Ian Smith	<b>Date:</b> 11/08/2008
<b>Specialist Adviser:</b>	<b>Scottish Arts Council Officer</b>

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 was an engaging performance from Dance Ihayami curated by Morag Deyes of Dance Base. Dance is not my area of expertise, but the movement of the dancers was both graceful and elegant, very much complimenting the music. There was also an explanatory narrative that further enhanced the 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	The use of two of Orkney and Scotland's best known and respected acoustic musicians, Jennifer and Hazel Wrigley, was a real plus and their contribution of melodies created by Simon Thoumire for the performance provided essential variety within the overall performance.
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	3/4	The venue was very small and some members of the audience who thought they would be seated in the front rows of the auditorium had to move due to an extended stage.
All	Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate and engage.  Where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.	4/5	The performers, both dancers and musicians, performed at the highest levels. There was also an intriguing mix of Irish and Scottish influence on the core Southern India influenced dance repertoire.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	4	Not my area of expertise, but as already stated, both elegant and graceful.
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.		
Theatre, Dance	Direction - Concerns issues of interpretation, casting and presentation.	3/4	This could have been staged in a larger venue, but the intimate surroundings were enjoyable, nonetheless.

<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>
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.	4	There was a mix of pre-recorded and live music (from the Wrigleys).
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.	4	Visually beautiful.
All	<p><b>Quality of Presentation/Engagement</b></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>	4	The dancers told their story which was easy to follow and as an overall performance worked very well.
All	<p><b>Audience</b></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>		A packed audience seemed to really enjoy this company's performance.
All	<p><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.</p>	4	There was an explanatory leaflet which was really helpful.
All	<p><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)?</p>	4	The company had also undertaken educational workshops as part of the festival, which I understand were a great success.

## 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	A little cramped, both for performers and audience.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Good.
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.	Good.
Ease of booking and payment	N/A
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	Slightly out of the centre of Kirkwall, but easy to find.
External signage and signposting	OK
Internal directional signage	None necessary.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	Disabled facilities provided.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	Late evening at 10pm but timed to allow the public to move from the earlier concert at St Magnus to this one.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Extremely helpful staff.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding <sup>2</sup>	On all literature and website.

<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.