



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: Sounds of Progress

Venue: Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh

Title of Event: Blind Gurl and The Crips

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

Date of Visit: 15th Aug 07

Overall Rating: Excellent

(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 show was first class entertainment from start to finish. Sally Clay was outstanding, accompanying herself and Gary Robson on piano, in many styles of music, from ballads to rap. Gary fronted the show with enthusiasm from the heart. There was very little in the way of sheet music on stage, emphasising the talent and professionalism of this act. The musicians seemed to enjoy the show as much as the audience!

Name: _____ Marie Fielding _____ Date: ___/___/_____

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.	Excellent	Professional and varied. Interacted well with audience. A show full of surprises, which had something for everyone. Humorous, uplifting, sensitive and very high standard of musicianship. New to me but I would happily revisit the experience.
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.	Excellent	Part of Edinburgh Festival. I would say that this was quite unique within the festival and certainly deserved to be amongst some of the top acts. The programme had been carefully put together, featuring two lead singers, enhanced by 3 other musicians, creating a rhythmical, orchestrated sound.
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	Excellent	This show was highly entertaining and full of energy and passion. It reflected the programme/flyer and info online. The musicians made a tremendous effort from start to finish, working well together as a team.
All	Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate and engage. Where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.	Excellent	Again, I felt part of this performance from the very beginning. Although the audience was small, we were all singing along, and at times very emotional. The quality and moods portrayed during the show were astounding and realistic. We had everything from Cole Porter , to Regina Spektor.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc		Although this section does not apply to the assessment, can I just add that Gary Robson did move around the stage in his wheelchair, which added hugely to the presentation of the show.
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.		

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
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.		
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.		
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>	Excellent	The stage was intimate and allowed the musicians to sit together appropriately. Lighting was subtle. The musicians could be heard clearly through the amplification. I felt that anything more would have detracted from the performance.
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>		There were only a few people in the audience. However, the musicians still performed to a high standard. Each person in the audience was fully engaged throughout the 50 mins show (including a representative from the Glasgow Herald). The songs were all contrasting and displayed how versatile the singers were. On entering the theatre, Sally was playing music, which definitely created a warm atmosphere. We were also given a flyer, which briefly explained who was performing, as well as web details and additional info on Sounds of Progress.
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.		
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)?		

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	Very suitable for this particular event, involving people with disabilities.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Lots of info on festival, shows on that day, and other events. Good displays with photos and info, at eye level.
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 companies web site is good and easy to access. There was enough information for me to have a good understanding of what they do and what is available. A flyer was given at start of event. The event was publicised inside only, NOT OUTSIDE.
Ease of booking and payment	This was straight- forward and the tickets were posted well in advance.
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	The venue could be located on a map on the Festival web site and had a number code(20) . It was on a main road and many buses are on this route. Parking was reasonable.
External signage and signposting	The Theatre Workshop has a good advertising sign and the venue number was easy to see. There was a board outside, displaying some events in the festival.
Internal directional signage	Toilets did have signs. However, the person with me did take some time to find them. The café had a sign and the auditorium was also signed.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	There was good wheelchair access. Lots of space at the reception area and a low desk to allow staff to talk easily to anyone in a wheelchair.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	The show started and ended on time. Entrance to the theatre was immediately before the show started. Perhaps this was due to a previous show?
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Staff were friendly, helpful and polite. We were ushered in when it was time to start, guided to our seats and the café seemed friendly and quite busy, still serving at 10pm.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	Nothing was available on the night or in the flyer. The web site does acknowledge the SAC funding.

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.