



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:	Theatre Workshop
Venue:	The Arches
Title of Event:	Endgame
Type of Event:	<i>(e.g. performance, exhibition, informal showing, work-in-progress, workshop, screening, lecture etc) performance</i>
Date of Visit:	22 November 2007
Overall Rating:	
	<i>(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.)</i>
	Good
	This was an intense and powerful interpretation of Endgame. Sharmanka's sculptures were an interesting and visually arresting addition
	However, I felt that the production was, at times, overly cluttered (i.e. visually and musically) which resulted in a production that was not always clear
Name:	Rebecca Robinson
Date:	23 November 2007
Specialist Advisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scottish Arts Council Officer <i>Please circle the relevant title</i>

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.	Good	This was an intense and powerful interpretation of Endgame. All the elements of this production worked well independently of each other (e.g. music, set design, acting, etc) and high production values were maintained throughout. However, I felt that the production was, at times, overly cluttered (i.e. visually and musically) which resulted in a production that was not always clear.
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.	Good	This touring production by Theatre Workshop formed part of the Arches full and eclectic programme of theatre, music, clubs, exhibitions, etc
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	Competent	Director Robert Rae's suggested in programme note, that his main aims where to produce an "honest" and clear interpretation of the script, as mentioned above, I did not feel that this aim was fully met.
All	Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate and engage. Where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.	Good	Garry Robson gave an intelligent, strong, simple and well-paced performance as <i>Clov</i> . Nabil Shaban's was powerful as <i>Hamm</i>
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	N/a	
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.	Excellent	In keeping with Beckett's estate, the text for this production of Endgame was unaltered.

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.	Good	(Director - Robert Rae) As mentioned above, the separate elements within this production (e.g. set design, kinetic sculptures, music, etc) all had high 'production values' and 'worked' as individual components. The production was well cast and Sharmanka's sculptures were an interesting and visually arresting addition. However, as mentioned, I felt that the production lacked clarity and was, at times, visually claustrophobic.
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.	Good	Music (recorded): Alexander Knaifel. Sound-design (recorded): Ronnie McConnell. Although the music and sound-design were very effective, I felt that its use, to “show the more reflective and emotive sides to the characters” (programme), overly demanded a particular audience response - rather than allowing the text to speak for itself.
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.	Good	The set featured a number of skilfully made and character-full kinetic sculptures – including the large 'bird cage' throne in which <i>Hamm</i> is enthroned - created by Sharmanka. The costume and background set design (Janis Hart) complemented the sculptures. Lighting (Segey Jakovsky) seemed appropriate for the production. The set appeared to be quite complicated with regards to the production's touring schedule.
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.	Good	The production was professionally presented from a technical point of view.
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 performance played to a full house the night I saw it. There was a fairly mixed demographic although the majority of the audience appeared to be in the under 30 age range. The audience were mainly attentive throughout. There was somewhat muted applause at the end – although this was partly due to the rather prolonged and unclear final lighting states.

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
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 Arches was a perfectly suitable venue for this production. However, I did feel that the venue accentuated the claustrophobic aspects of the production.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	There were posters on display in the foyer and free glossy, colour programmes were given to the 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.	The production was advertised on the company's and the venue's websites – all information was clearly laid out and easy to understand. I found the posters a little over cluttered with information – making them difficult to read. I read one very positive review and one less positive in, respectively, <i>The Scotsman</i> and <i>The Herald</i> .
Ease of booking and payment	No problem
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	The Arches is the centre of Glasgow and very easy to access by most forms of public transport.
External signage and signposting	No problem
Internal directional signage	No problem
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	Seemed to be ok. The performance was signed for the hearing impaired.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	I felt that the production seemed long at 2 hours with no interval. The 7.30pm start seemed appropriate. (An audience member told me that they had been wrongly informed by the box office that the performance only lasted for one hour).
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Box office staff were efficient.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	The SAC were acknowledged on all publicity material that I was aware of.

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.