



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:	TRON
Venue:	TRON Theatre
Title of Event:	ANTIGONE
Type of Event:	PERFORMANCE
Date of Visit:	12/10/07
Overall Rating:	Excellent

This was a crystal clear, stripped down and contemporary version of Antigone, filled with consistently good performances and unexpected wit.

Name: **Stewart Ennis** Date: **13/10/07** 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.	Excellent	This stripped down version of Sophocles' Antigone, was written and directed by David Levine. It' contemporaneity of text and visual style was highlighted by unexpected and disarming verbal wit, (particularly in the use of the chorus) and the use of slide projection and video monitors all of which gave the production immediacy and crystal clarity.
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 is a TRON theatre co commission supported by the Scottish Arts Council.
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 is described as a modern version of Antigone, and this is very much the case, in its use of text, design, costume and movement.
All	Performers/tutors - technical standard, performance skills and ability to communicate and engage.	Excellent	All the performers gave consistently excellent, focused and committed performances always in keeping with the style of the piece. Understanding and communication of ideas were never less than completely lucid.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	Good	There was little in the way of choreography or set movement pieces. The movement generally was quite loose which seemed to be in keeping with the modern text and style of the piece.
Theatre	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions. Relevant to classics where the original has been substantially changed.	Excellent	This modern version of Antigone was written by David Levine. It was full of passion, disarming wit and it possessed exemplary lucidity.
Theatre, Dance	Direction - Concerns issues of interpretation, casting and presentation.	Excellent	David Levine's direction was simple and unflashy. The casting of all the characters was universally appropriate and the dynamic between the performers extremely effective throughout. Priority was given to clear interpretation of text, over movement, which was quite loose, (see <i>choreography</i> above) but again, effective and appropriate to the conventions of the piece.

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.	Excellent	Little use of music but the threatening, portentous buzzing of flies (?) was extremely effective, as were the deafening chimes, reminding us, within this modern, cool version, of its ancient roots.
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 stage was almost stripped bare with only vertical scaffolding suggesting a structure. Video monitors only added to the sparseness. Costumes were modern dress, with the chorus of suited men in fedoras had something Mediterranean or eastern European about them, setting them slightly apart. The focus of the piece was on the text, with the set never detracting from the performances.
All	Quality of Presentation/Engagement Performing Arts - technical presentation of the production (eg lighting and sound cues, etc).	Excellent	Lighting and sound cues and scene changes were carried out unobtrusively and effectively throughout.
All	Audience Performing Arts - appropriateness of the production for the audience/participants; estimate the size and reaction		The house was full. The audience appeared engaged throughout, responding audibly to the humour, and very enthusiastic at the end.
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	Very suitable.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Brochure and programme gave useful information on cast and company but little on the background of the play.
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.	Web site easy to negotiate, while brochure and flyer/ poster all quite visible at various points in city.
Ease of booking and payment	No problems.
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	On many bus routes and near rail and underground.
External signage and signposting	Easy to negotiate.
Internal directional signage	Easy to negotiate.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	Acceptable.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	At 80minutes without an interval, this was quite appropriate.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Box Office, front of house and bar staff all very helpful and friendly.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	SAC acknowledged on all printed material.

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.