



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: Wee Stories

Venue: Traverse

Title of Event: Jock and the Beanstalk

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: 19 December 2007

Overall Rating: Good

An energetic, absurd version of the classic tale. Inventive direction and excellent performers provided a highly entertaining, well crafted alternative to the Xmas pantomime. The audience was engrossed throughout.

Name: Angela Hogg

Date: 21 May 2008

Scottish Arts Council Officer

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	The show provided a good alternative to the Xmas pantomime through it's accessibility of theme and approach. It offered a chance for audiences to use their imaginations while enjoying an up to date, absurd version of a well known classic story. Very typical of the known Wee Stories style.
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	Artist led.
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	Good	The programme describes this show as <i>an adventure full of music, magic and manure</i> which accurately reflects the show's content and approach.
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	The cast of 3, Andy Cannon. Iain Johnstone and Fiona Steele played a range of characters with wit and skill. The portrayals were very relevant to the overall theme and style of the piece. I particularly enjoyed the Giant's representation as a dark, eccentric character. The performers developed a very good rapport with the audience which was essential in enabling the public to have a creative experience with this particular piece.
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.	Good	Written by Andy Cannon and Iain Johnstone. A funny, entertaining and up to date version of the classic tale. It contained quite a bit of toilet humour which is not <i>my cup of tea</i> however I recognised that the audience loved it (as well as other <i>mucky</i> bits). Overall the script had many witty moments and clever play on words in

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
			keeping with the Wee Stories style. As mentioned above the show provided a good (absurd) alternative to the Xmas pantomime through it's accessibility of theme and inventive approach.
Theatre, Dance	Direction - Concerns issues of interpretation, casting and presentation.	Excellent	<p>Andy Cannon and Iain Johnstone created an energetic, high paced show with strong impact on the audience (as noted from their reactions and engagement with the cast and themes).</p> <p>An atmospheric start led us in to a multi media event which relied on inventive use of props and set as well as a razor-sharp collaboration between symbolic and text based storytelling.</p> <p>I loved the use of film to depict Jock being chased by the giant. The depiction of the chase, use of music and words on screen successfully represented an old silent movie style which fitted really well with the Wee Stories approach</p>
Dance, Theatre	Use of music – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/recorded) to the production.	Good	<p>Sound effects and music played an integral part in representing mood, mode and meaning.</p> <p>No music credits on the programme.</p>
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	<p>The show had a Xmas panto feel to it through the design which enhanced the accessibility of this piece as an alternative to the standard Xmas pantomime. A simple, resourceful set. Effective lighting. Fitted well with Traverse space.</p> <p>Set designed by Caroline Fearon.</p>
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>	Good	Supported the action well.
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/</p>		<p>An audience of approximately 80 children/adults responded extremely enthusiastically.</p> <p>Appropriate to a wide age range as targeted.</p>

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
	schoolteachers reaction, understanding, commitment, enthusiasm, number involved, etc		
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 space.
Information/ interpretive material at venue - programmes, displays etc.	Basic programme.
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.	Information on website, email information and leaflet.
Ease of booking and payment	Very good.
Location of venue – eg is it easy to find? Is it on a main transport route?	Good.
External signage and signposting	Good.
Internal directional signage	Good.
Access and provision for disabled people – what can you see?	Accessible.
Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	Afternoon show lasting 1hour 10mins very suitable.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	Excellent.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ²	The programme had no acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council 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.