

**THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Organisation/Venue: Health and Safety at the Arches Theatre

Title of Event: Health and Safety (part of the Theatre Festival)

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: 6 March 2002

1. Artistic Assessment

1.1 Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event - its Vision and Imagination; Ability to Communicate and Quality of Production.

This was a witty and imaginative piece that played with the conventions of presentation.

1.2 You are also asked to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the event with specific reference to the following:

- **Script (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions)**

The script consisted of a series of satirical introductions to vignettes. The introductions were knowingly banal, at times lurching into the absurd. The small playlets that were thus introduced were obscure and kafkaesque with suggestions of being burdened with implied meaning. There were sections of prose which were not clearly identified.

- **Direction**

The director used a lot of movement, often down the long length of the arched space. This suggested the labyrinthine workings of a purposeful but meaningless bureaucracy. Much of the piece took place in front of a white curtain, by way of an introduction to the "presentation". This was wittily handled. At some points the extended walking up and down was just a little over-done.

- **Standard of performers**

The performances were all assured and convincing. In particular the M-C held the audiences attention and gave a performance that was full of humour.

- **Design**

The design was simple but effective, with an interesting “post-modern” use of lighting.

- **Technical Standards**

The technical presentation was good.

- **Appropriateness of production for the audience**

Overall, one had the impression of a production that was thoughtful, well executed and funny. It held the promise of something more substantial and perhaps more transparent. This had the air of a work-in-progress albeit at a fairly advanced stage. Timing of the event was odd (8.40pm). This would have made sense if one could have seen another performance before or after – but this was not the case.

- **Approximate size of audience and reaction**

The programme for the production gave very little information beyond the names of the participants. More would have been welcome.

- **Overall Production**

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and by the venue. Please answer, where relevant, with reference to the checklist below adding any other comments/observations you may have.

2.2 Suitability of the venue for the event:

Good

2.3 Information/Interpretative material provided at the venue (eg programmes, displays) - range, quantity and clarity

A good generic programme for the festival. Information on the piece itself was sparse.

2.4 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the event (leaflets/posters, etc) - range, content and when and where available

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

- ease of payment Good
- location Good
- direction Good
- access for disabled people Good
- timing of event Odd

2.6 Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (eg box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)

Reasonable

3. Background to your visit

- 3.1 Have you seen the work of this artist/company before? NO**
- 3.2 Is this your first visit to this venue? NO**