

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: 2003 Arches Award for Stage Directors Winner
at the Arches Theatre Festival
Title of event: Beautiful Anger
Type of event: performance
Date of visit: 04/04/2003

1. Artistic assessment

Please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event - its vision and imagination; ability to communicate; and quality of production

This was a devised piece, taking as its starting point depictions of how anger affects people physically. Three performers and one director explored their own ideas of anger and how their personal experiences of it differ.

The subject matter had the potential to be interesting and of universal appeal. The piece did not live up to this potential. The public presentation of devised work has inherent dangers, perhaps especially for newer practitioners. The creative team can be so totally immersed in the piece there is a danger of a lack of communication with the audience, and of collective navel-gazing. This can be exacerbated when the subject matter of the piece draws on autobiographical material. Beautiful Anger's creative team are all relatively inexperienced, and the devising had obviously drawn on the intervals' own experiences. Perhaps it is not surprising that the piece fell into the obvious traps - it had no coherence or overall meaning and no particular point. There was no intellectual or emotional engagement of the audience.

1.1 Script

Naturalistic language which was entirely appropriate. Lots of little scenes

1.2 Direction

By Fiona Cole. She did her best with a very fragmented disjointed piece. Individual scenes worked well directorially, with effective changes of mood and good use of the space. That the piece didn't work was not due to lack of directorial skill. But NB see under Overall Performance.

Standard of Performers

Adequate – tending towards the uncontrolled enthusiastic approach at some points, but this is (probably) due to relative inexperience of the director and the performers. But NB see Under Overall Performance.

Design

Very much based on the requirements of particular props – this was appropriate for the piece.

Technical Standards

Fine

Overall Production

This was disappointing. The actors and director may all have potential which was not demonstrated in this production. However, as this was devised they must all take

