

## SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL ASSESSMENT REPORT

**Organisation/Venue:** Theatre of the Imagination - The Arches

**Title of Event:** Brazil

**Type of Event:** Drama

**Date of Visit:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 03

**Artistic Assessment** – This was a most enjoyable hour. It lasted long enough to satisfy and did not overstay its welcome. It reminded me of the award winning 'Howie the Rookie' which featured two 45 minute monologues. Had I not seen Howie, I would have been more than impressed than I was. Having said that, the actor gave a very convincing performance and kept up the energy throughout the piece for most of the time. Everything was created with words, lighting, sound and performance. No props were used. This was certainly theatre of the imagination and it all worked very well. I would recommend this production to all.

**Script** – The script was excellent. The words of Ronan O'Donnell were so descriptive that nothing else was needed to paint the picture. The addition of lighting and music merely enhanced the work. I look forward to more.

**Direction** – This was very well directed with the action spread over the floor space. It could have been very difficult with just one actor but Graeme Maley coped admirably.

**Standard of Performers** – The solo performer, Antony Strachan, worked with tireless energy. Very occasionally, his vocal range became quite narrow but not enough to criticize the overall performance. He managed to create various characters through the writing and his acting skills. His communication and rapport with the audience was excellent and I don't think that he missed making eye contact with everyone there. He played straight from the heart and you can't fault that.

**Design** – The design was very simple and, as one would expect from Theatre of the Imagination, the words and acting created the locations. There were a few words scrawled on the walls and floor to help identify the places and people mentioned. This worked very well. The music, sound and lighting also helped create the appropriate ambiance for each scene.

**Technical Standards** – This production featured lots of SFX, music and lighting cues. Once or twice I felt the lighting was a little off target but overall the standard was very good considering that it was a very difficult show.

**Appropriateness of production for the audience** – The auditorium was fairly full as this was the first night and the audience seemed quite adult for a production that would have suited late teens onwards.

**Approximate size of audience and reaction** – The single actor was given a well deserved round of applause.

**Management of the event** – I really don't enjoy being held in a pen when I don't know where the play will take place. I always arrive early but if I sit in the wrong end

of the bar then those who arrive late get into the theatre first which doesn't seem fair. Other than that, the venue is ideal.

**Suitability of the venue for the event** – This production could be staged in any space so The Arches was very acceptable due to the ambience of the place itself.

**Information/ Material at the venue** – There was a single A4 sheet with a little information on it.

**Publicity/Pre-publicity** – I received information from various sources.

**Accessibility of the venue** – Good

**Ease of payment** – Fair

**Location** – Good

**Direction** – Good

**Disabled access** – Fair

**Timing of event** – Although 7.00 was early, there was another production after this one so there was no problem with the start.

**Customer Service** – I have to say that there was a vast improvement since my last visit. Well done.

**Have you seen this company before?** No

**Is this your first visit to the venue?** No