

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: Vox Motus at the Arches
Title of event: Interference
Type of event: Performance
Date of visit: 19/06/2003

1. Artistic assessment

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

The themes of the piece were not wildly original – television and its influence on people’s relationships, fame (via television), (sexual) relationships. What turned this into an excellent piece of theatre was the way the company presented this.

The staging was extremely imaginative – especially the use of set and actor to create optical illusions of which perspective the audience was looking at the stage.

The use of video was suitably restrained and pertinent to the overall production.

1.1 Script

Devised and written by the company (presumably Jamie Harrison and Candice Edwards, the company directors - it is unclear if the other performer contributed.) This was basically a narrative story with some flashbacks to Allan’s boyhood. The dialogue was suitably natural. The script dealt well with the various themes of the piece, avoiding any traps of lingering too long in any one area - disciplined and controlled (not often words associated with devised work!)

1.2 Direction

By the company. Excellent special awareness demonstrated and a good pace was sustained throughout, with changes of atmosphere and mood conveyed at appropriate times.

Standard of Performers

Candice Edwards (Rebecca) and Robert Jack (Allan) - the couple in the piece, both gave entirely convincing performances. Jamie Harrison as the television “star” next door had a smaller part, with less scope.

Design

(presumably by the company?) System of sliding panels suspended from lines strung across the stage, which were moved by the characters to create different settings. On the whole this worked very well. A few times their facial expressions seemed to indicate a struggle with moving the panels fast enough – this must have seemed far longer onstage than it did to the audience who would not have been aware of this without the tell-tale grimaces.

The lighting (by Lynfryn Mackenzie) was of acceptable standard. Digital effects (Tim

Reid) and music/sound (Neck Doppler) both of reasonable quality and well integrated into the production.

Technical Standards Fine

Overall Production

High production standards throughout of a piece which sustained interest and was visually strong. The enduring aspect was the story of the relationship, which, while not being especially profound (and I doubt whether this was the company's intention) was meaningful and also entertaining.

Appropriateness of production for the audience Appropriate

Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work

About three quarters full. Very good reaction.

2. Management of event

2.1 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: Entirely suitable

2.3 Information/interpretative material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc.
range, quantity and clarity

Free photocopied programme page, perfectly acceptable.

2.4 Publicity/pre publicity for the event (leaflets, posters, etc.):
range, content and when and where available.

Postcards, posters – reasonably arresting design (a little heavy-handed in it's oh so risqué approach) – but good quality print. Unfortunately, postcard didn't have details on the front for what it was for – this might have detracted from the image but it's a basic print design rule for a reason – you cannot rely on people turning that card over!

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

Ease of payment	Fine
Location	Fine
Direction	?
Access for disabled people	Fine

Customer service:

Quality and efficiency of staff

Box office friendly, front of house also friendly and more helpful than they sometimes are, especially regarding giving directions. Still a problem identifying who the front of house people are.

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

Jaine Lumsden
Drama Officer