

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: Wayward
at the Arches Theatre Festival
Title of event: Look At Me
Type of event: performance
Date of visit: 09/04/2003

1. Artistic assessment

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

A devised piece by Herman van Baar and Andrew Mackinnon. The stated aim was to explore the different approaches to acting and directing in Holland and Scotland, how these would affect the director/actor relationship in rehearsal.

The piece had been developed over a reasonably long length of time, including a three week residency devoted exclusively to it. This development period was evident in the production, which communicated well with the audience and was assured and neatly and deftly avoided any suspicion of the self indulgence and boringness of ill-prepared devised work.

1.1 Script

Devised. Explored some interesting ideas and flowed well.

1.2 Direction

This was well-directed – an obviously creative relationship between van Baar and Mackinnon which allowed them to have the confidence to experiment.

Standard of Performers

Excellent. Herman van Baar has a wonderful stage presence and is eminently “watchable.” He naturally and effortlessly moved from himself as a child to playing two characters simultaneously, to an actor etc. Andrew Mackinnon was a presence (presumably of himself) throughout and acted as a foil to Herman van Baar.

Design

Minimal and entirely appropriate.

Technical Standards

Fine

Overall Production

Genuinely interesting exploration which also entertained.

Appropriateness of production for the audience

Seemed appropriate.

Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work

Good reaction.

2. Management of event

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

range, quantity and clarity

Free programme

2.4 Publicity/pre publicity for the event (leaflets, posters, etc.):

range, content and when and where available.

Theatre Festival programme, reasonable quality and layout.

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

Ease of payment Impossible to get through to box office (phone fault.)

Resorted to emailing a staff member with a request to reserve tickets.

(How would the general public cope with this?)

Location Fine

Direction ?

Access for disabled people unclear

Customer service:

Quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)

Friendly – but very difficult to work out who the front of house staff 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