

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
ARTISTIC EVALUATION - DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: Flying Gumption at The Arches
Title of Event: Unsex Me Here
Type of Event: performance
Date of Visit: 19/09/2003

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named below. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or a Council Officer, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work, to the management of the venue if the venue is core funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report may be made available to Scottish Arts Council Officers, Council and Committee members, and specialist advisors as appropriate. It will be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Council to report on the overall performance of its Core Funded organisations.

Evaluators should enter their rating under each section, explaining briefly their reason for the rating with reference to their comments under each section. Ratings should be given in accordance with the following:

Very Poor –standard falls well below what is acceptable

Poor- not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation

Competent– routine rather than especially interesting

Good –well conceived and executed.

Excellent –conceived and executed to a high standard.

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event

1.1 Vision and Imagination.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: This was a non-linear performance linking themes of shoes (and the allure of the raised calf), fairy stories via archetypal characters with a twist. The approach was distinctly lateral at times, which resulted in a somewhat quirky but inventive production.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.2 Clarity of Communication.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: This was entertainment with a twist (although not, I suspect, as strong or radical a twist as intended.) On this level it communicated well with the audience and engaged its attention throughout.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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

1.3 Script (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions).

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: There were some very good ideas within the piece that were amusing, relevant to life today (and yesterday) and potentially though provoking. The script was a series of vignettes that were sometimes interlinked. The language itself was purely a means to get the ideas and mini-stories across, and on this level worked well.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
Good		
Excellent		

1.4 Direction

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: This was on the whole competent. A one person show presents challenges to director and performer and these were on the whole met. The production could have had more dramatic moments which would have varied pace and mood as it tended towards a relentless upbeat pace at times. The use of props was clumsy at times. I wonder if this was undirected? In a one person show when the actor is onstage throughout it is irritating and can distract from the production to see a performer struggling with props.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
Good		
Excellent		

1.5 Standard of performers- where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Very engaging high energy performance by Skye Lonergan in a one-person show. She could have given more contrast through different use of energies, which would have given the piece more layers of meaning and subtleties of pace. She kept the audience's attention throughout the production, which is a demanding challenge in a one person piece.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	

Excellent		
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1.6 Use of music – in particular please comment on the quality and appropriateness of any original music composed for the production. Please indicate whether the music was performed live or recorded, in whole or in part, and what effect this had on the quality of the production.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Very witty and appropriate use of pre-recorded music.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: No choreography as such.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.8 Design – including set, costume and lighting design. Please take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue, and, where appropriate, the touring schedule.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: The production was a little over-propped at times. The set was minimal – a big net suspended upstage with shoes hanging off it. This worked well with the production. Lighting design simple and adequate for the production.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
Good		

Excellent		
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1.9 Technical Standards – please comment on whether the production was professionally presented from a technical point of view.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Professionally presented technically.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
Good		
Excellent		

1.10 Overall production – was the production successful overall in relation to any stated aims (e.g. in the programme or other printed material, and stated aims and objectives)

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: This was light hearted entertainment which would have benefited from the development of the darker undersides of the themes and source stories. There were some very interesting ideas and the approach to these ideas was the most engaging aspect. It would be interesting to see this piece developed further.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.11 Was the performance appropriate for the audience?
Yes.

1.12 Estimated size of audience and reaction to the production.
Laughter at appropriate points and a very warm reaction. Approximately 60 people?

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.

2.1 Was the venue suitable for the event?

Yes

2.2 Information/Interpretive material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc)

- range, quantity and clarity.

Programmes on seats – neatly rolled and tied with ribbon – what a labour of love!
Adequate information.

2.3 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the Event (leaflets, posters, etc)

- range, content and when and where available. Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Please also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised. Comment on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information.

Media listings, in venue brochure.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue

- ease of payment N/A I was invited
- location Fine
- external signposting Fine
- internal directional signing Okay
- access and provision for disabled people Fine
- timing of event Fine

2.5 Customer service

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

Friendly. The use of logo'd t-shirts to identify (most of) the front of house staff is a great improvement.

3. Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding (if applicable)

Following is an extract from the Scottish Arts Council's conditions of grant for funded organisations:

“The company should acknowledge Scottish Arts Council funding in press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes, posters, notices display and exhibition materials, websites and advertising). Acknowledgement of the Scottish Arts Council grant must also be made in any secondary or indirect products arising from the revenue funding such as recordings, publications, video, broadcasts, and computer programmes etc. “

Please comment on whether the above conditions of grant were met, including use and prominence of the Scottish Arts Council logo on the company's website.

Name: Jaine Lumsden

Date: 10/10/2003

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

(Please tick above as appropriate)