



Scottish Arts Council

## ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

**Artist/Company:** Goat Island

**Venue:** Tramway, Glasgow

**Title of Event:** When will the September roses bloom? Last night was only a comedy

**Type of Event:** (e.g. performance, informal showing, work-in-progress, etc)

Performance

**Date of Visit:** Wednesday 2 March

**Overall Rating** (Please rate the production overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. the particular strengths and weaknesses).

Competent

Although this is a company of strong and committed, physical performance, the work was difficult to follow and overly long.

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Scottish Arts Council Officer

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 an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and 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:**

**1-Very Poor** – standard falls well below what is acceptable.

**2-Poor** – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.

**3-Competent** – routine rather than especially interesting.

**4-Good** – well conceived and executed

**5-Excellent** – conceived and executed to a high standard.

## 1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, taking account of the following

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Vision and imagination	3	There was obvious imagination and creativity behind the work but this did not translate into a successful finished production. The piece lacked clarity in direction.
Clarity of communication	3	Although the performers were gripping and powerful, the show was confusing, meandering and lacked clarity and focus. There were moments and scenes within the work which were powerful and rich but overall it felt loose and frustrating. The production did not hold my attention for the duration of the performance.
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	3	<p>In the festival brochure, Goat Island state that '<i>..our intention is to explore new approaches to form and content, directly engaging the audiences in new configurations – the group performs in intimated spaces, with the audience close to the performers, resulting in raw immediacy, and the opportunity to appreciate contrasts of energy and stillness</i>'</p> <p>There work certainly does explore new approaches to form and through a devised approach, converge different influences and relationships with audiences in space. On this occasion, however, I did not think that they were successful in engaging the audience with them in the work.</p>

## 2. Strengths and Weakness

Assess the strengths and weakness of the event with reference to the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Choreography/ Direction - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	3	<p>The devised piece drew on a diverse range of texts and material and integrated spoken dialogue with movement, including some closely choreographed sequences. The frantic and hard-hitting choreography performed in unison was, for me, a highlight of the work.</p> <p>The configuration of the performance space with the audience on two sides of an elongated performance space, worked well and created an intimacy with the five performers.</p>
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	5	The Goat Islands performers are strong and versatile with great movement skills. They all were able to connect and communicate with the audience, but were let down by the material.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments and key reasons for rating</b>
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	4	A variety of recorded sound was used in this work and was of appropriate quality.
Design – costume, set, lighting	3	There was minimal set or scenography, instead using found and improvised props such as cardboard pieces and crutches. Costumes were simple, but suitable for the work.
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	4	Video projection was used in the work and this was strong element both artistically and technically in the work. The technical standards were to a good standard.
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction		The venue was filled to capacity for the performance I attended – approx 150. Due to the length of the work, without interval, some in the audience were getting restless and a few people did leave before the end.

### 3. Management of Event

*Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations.*

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comment and key reasons for rating</b>
Suitability of the venue for the event	5	Tramway is the ideal venue for new territories as it offers flexible spaces suitable for the eclectic mix of companies. For this piece Tramway 1 was sent up with audience in raised seating on two sides of an elongated performance area.
Information/ interpretive material at venue <sup>1</sup>	4	There was a simple photocopied programme, provided free of charge that contained some contextual information on the show and an additional hand-out on the piece. Preview and review press-cuttings on new territories were displayed in the entrance foyer.
Publicity/ pre-publicity <sup>2</sup>	3	Information contained in festival and Tramway brochures. Good press coverage for the festival. Although there was visibility of the festival through poster coverage in the city, distribution of the festival brochure could be improved.
Ease of booking and payment	5	Efficient and helpful.

<sup>1</sup> These include programmes, displays etc., assessing the range, quality and clarity

<sup>2</sup> Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the 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

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comment and key reasons for rating</b>
Location of venue	4	Tramway is on the southside of the river, approximately 10minutes drive from the citycentre. It is easily accessible by car and has near-by, on street parking. Information on public transport is included in new territories and Tramway brochures.
External signage and signposting	3	External signage is fine but more sign-posting would be helpful for people coming to the venue for the first time.
Internal directional signage	4	Good signage with lots of helpful staff if you can't find your seat.
Access and provision for disabled people	5	Tramway is fully accessible for people with disabilities and employs people with disabilities as part of the front of house team which demonstrates a strong commitment to equal opportunities and understanding of access issues.
Timing of the event	4	7.30pm start and lasted for 2¼ hours without an interval.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	4	Good. Front of House and bar staff were friendly, helpful and efficient.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding <sup>3</sup>	4	Scottish Arts Council was credited in the programme, in the festival and season brochure and on the Tramway and new moves websites.

<sup>3</sup> The 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, 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, computer programmes etc."

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