



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/Company: Josef Nadj / new territories

Venue: Tramway, Glasgow

Title of Event: Jouranal d'un inconnu (The journal of an unknown)

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

Performance

Date of Visit: Saturday 26 February, 2005

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).

Excellent.

This was an exceptional performance of absolute artistry and with excellent production values.

Name: Anita Clark Date: 12 April 2005

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please circle the relevant title

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	5	A truly original performance piece that was highly visual and emotive, mixing dance and theatre.
Clarity of communication	5	The production was layered with human experience and the complex struggles of the human mind. There was an honesty to the work that communicated with the audience with clarity, humour and warmth.
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	5	The work had excellent production values which all complimented the intention of the choreographer/ performer. The piece demands an emotive response from the audience as we are taken on a journey to the inner-most, dark places of the character's mind.

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 - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	5	This was a highly original, solo piece of dance theatre. Scenography, lighting and video projection were integral to the work.
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	5	This was a solo performance by the choreographer Josef Nadj. An exceptional performer, each movement was filled with intensity and absolute honesty. A true artist.
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	4	The sound was recorded and drew on a number of different sources, including traditional music from Eastern Europe and was very appropriate to the nature and feel of the work.
Design – costume, set, lighting	5	As already mentioned, the scenography of this work was integral to the performance. There was an organic-feel to the set, utilising paper, wood and natural materials which complimented the under-stated simplicity but exceptionally intense work. The work also used a moving set, video projection and lighting but the solo performer was never overwhelmed by this.

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	5	Although there was a simple feel to this work, it was highly complex and technically demanding. All technical aspects of the production were excellent and supported the performance.
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	4	There was an audience of approximately 100 for this performance on the night I attended. The re-action to the work was magnificent, demanding a number of curtain calls.

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.

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Suitability of the venue for the event	5	Tramway is the ideal venue for new territories and the flexibility of the performance space can be utilised by the companies.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	3	There was a simple photocopied programme, provided free of charge that contained some contextual information on the show, but not as much as in the festival brochure. Preview and review press-cuttings on new territories were displayed in the entrance foyer.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	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.
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.

¹ These include programmes, displays etc., assessing the range, quality and clarity

² 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

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
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 1 hour.
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 ³	4	Scottish Arts Council was credited in the programme, in the season brochure and on the website.

³ 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.