



Scottish Arts Council

## ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

**Artist/Company:** New Moves – Sylvian Emard Danse

**Venue:** Tramway

**Title of Event:** Pluie (Rain)

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

**Date of Visit:** 17 March 05

**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).

4 – Visually interesting set with technically strong performers. There was more focus on the technicality of the moves rather than any emotional dynamics between the performers that detracted from the overall piece.

Name: Susan Hay      Date: 13/4/05  
Specialist Advisor      Scottish Arts Council Officer

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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	4	The overall piece worked well with an imaginative set and two performers.
Clarity of communication	3-4	The performers were technically very good, but the interplay between the two did not come across, and as the piece was about relationships this reduced the effectiveness of the piece.
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	4	The quality of the production was good. The production largely succeeded in doing what the publicity stated, with the exception of the dancers' sensitivity to the layers of meaning within the choreography (in my opinion).

## 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	3-4	Two dancers used to explore the relationships between the two. Solos and duets used alongside a set which resembled a large lampshade. This was used creatively with lighting to project intermittent shadow images of the dancers and as an area for costume changes. However, the total nudity unveiled at the end was meaningless and I was left wondering why bother, except to try to shock?
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	4	Technically the performers were strong, but there was a distance between the two – no real connection as human beings which detracted from the meaning of the choreography.
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	4	Recorded music complemented the work.
Design – costume, set, lighting	4	I liked the set design – resembled a large lampshade to me. Costumes were basic, but suitable for the work.
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	4	There were no obvious technical problems.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments and key reasons for rating</b>
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	4	Good reaction from the crowd. Approx 80% capacity.

### 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 hosting large scale dance performances
Information/ interpretive material at venue <sup>1</sup>	5	There was a simple photocopied programme, provided free of charge that contained some contextual information on the show. Preview and review press-cuttings on new territories were displayed in the entrance foyer.
Publicity/ pre-publicity <sup>2</sup>	4	Information contained in festival and Tramway brochures.
Ease of booking and payment	4	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.
Internal directional signage	4	Good signage
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 -	4	Good. Front of House and bar staff were friendly,

<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>
quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)		helpful and efficient.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding <sup>3</sup>	4	Scottish Arts Council was credited in the programme, in the season brochure and on the website.

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<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.