



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/Company: Scottish Dance Theatre

Venue: Dundee Rep Theatre

Title of Event: Autumn Season 2004

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

Date of Visit: 29 September 2004

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).

5: Excellent

An excellent, quality production that was engaging, inspiring and presented to a high standard. Simply, a really enjoyable evening of dance that kicked off SDT's new season at their home theatre.

Name: Anita Clark **Date:** 19/10/2004

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	5	A rich programme with two distinct new choreographies. One of Janet's greatest talents is in identifying choreographers who are not necessarily 'big-names' but will bring something special to the company's rep and to the dancers. Liv Lorent's piece is a delicious addition to SDT's work.
Clarity of communication	5	SDT dance and perform beautifully but more importantly than the technique they are individuals who put themselves fully into the work and engage with the audience in a very honest way.
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	5	The quote on the front of the programme said 'spirit and passion' and both were in ample supply in this performance. As a dance programme aiming to 'explore sensation, thought and feeling and what it is to be human', it fully succeeded.

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	4	<i>Forty Minutes</i> choreographed by Artistic Director Janet Smith created a barren landscape crossed by people, each with their own story searching to get beyond. Episodic in structure, some sections were a little disconnected. However, there was an abundant but easy quality in the movement throughout. The piece contained a wonderful and humorous play with imagery, with various limbs appearing and disappearing at times disconnected from their owners. <i>Luxuria</i> choreographed by Liv Lorent is a sensual exploration into female sexuality. At moments dark at others wonderfully decadent, the work challenged dancers, particularly the females, in a different direction and one they grasped with guts.
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	5	A company of wonderful dancers who perform with integrity, a rich quality of movement and such an obvious enjoyment in what they do.
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	4	Good. The eclectic but balanced use of music in <i>Luxuria</i> was particularly enjoyable.

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Design – costume, set, lighting	4	In <i>Forty Minutes</i> there was video projection used intermittently throughout and at times created a wonderfully evocative landscape for the piece. At other points, however, I was less clear of its purpose. The floor, rising and disappearing into the horizon was simple but highly effective. The crinoline dresses in <i>Luxuria</i> were a wonderful piece of costume design that were used to great effect in the choreography.
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	4	Good. Everything went smoothly and was presented to a high technical standard.
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	5	Coming into the theatre there was a buzz and a real sense of excited, anticipation. The theatre was almost full and the company was enthusiastically received by the audience. It was a very mixed audience with many young people.

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	The company's home theatre is ideal for their work.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	5	Good programme which works well in
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	5	Strong images used in publicity and widely distributed.
Ease of booking and payment	-	-
Location of venue	5	City centre venues with good public transport links.
External signage and signposting	4	Good, easy to locate the theatre.

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, easy to find your way around.
Access and provision for disabled people	4	Dundee Rep Theatre is accessible to people with disabilities
Timing of the event	4	Good
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	4	Front of house and bar staff were highly efficient as well as friendly and welcoming.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ³	5	Scottish Arts Council is prominently credited on publicity, programmes and on the Dundee Rep/ Scottish Dance Theatre 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.