



Scottish Arts Council

**ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE**

**Artist/Company:** Scottish Dance Theatre

**Venue:** Brunton Theatre

**Title of Event:** Autumn Tour 04

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

**Date of Visit:** 6/10/04

**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

A very enjoyable evening with quite a lot of wow factor. The works were not compromised by a smaller stage. The intimate nature of the theatre worked in the dancer's favour - the physicality and fluidity of the dancers had a greater impact on the audience

Name: Susan Hay  
Specialist Advisor

Date: 7/10/04  
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	Two very contrasting pieces of work within the programme <i>40 minutes</i> by Janet Smith and <i>Luxuria</i> by Liv Lorent.
Clarity of communication	5	The dancers are very expressive, both physically and emotionally – the playfulness and chemistry between the performers was obvious to the audience.
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	4	'SDT's diverse and spicy repertoire of works is full of the flavours of life with humour, passion, reflection and beauty providing food for the soul'. The production lived up to its marketing, with a high quality engaging show.

## 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>40 minutes</i> - highlighted the strengths of the performers, combining movement, acrobatics, speech and video form a fast-moving piece of work. Because Janet knows her dancers, she drew on their personalities to create the piece, which made the audience feel like they were getting to know the dancers, rather than just watching a show. The piece was made up of short stories. The humour and playfulness of the dancers was fun to watch and the jumps drew gasps from some audience members. The use of video seemed at times disconnected to the choreography, but in other parts, eg the railway, added to the storyline being explored.  <i>Luxuria</i> – was very much an exploration of the individuals' sensuality. A very visual piece of work with costumes being an integral part of the movements created.
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	5	SDT seems to get stronger each time they perform. Their fluidity is stunning to watch and they show themselves to be very adaptive and creative performers.
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	5	Recorded music used. A mixture of different music, something to please everyone in the audience.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments and key reasons for rating</b>
Design – costume, set, lighting	4	Good costumes, set and lighting. I liked the raised carpet – reminiscent of Nikolais work, with people appearing from behind objects out of nowhere.
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	4	A slight glitch where the dancers were at one point dancing in the dark, before lights came up. House lights went on and off half way through the first piece, which confused the audience.
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	4	Around 120 in the audience. The audience were absorbed by the production.

## 2. 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	4	Brunton Theatre is an established theatre with a growing programme of dance. The venue has a good dance floor, with clear lines of vision.
Information/ interpretive material at venue <sup>1</sup>	4	Programmes were available. Good display material around the theatre foyer
Publicity/ pre-publicity <sup>2</sup>	4	Bruton's website easy to use, but unable to book on-line
Ease of booking and payment	3	Booking can be a long drawn out process, as you are dependent on being phoned back by the theatre, and this can sometimes be the next day. I found it frustrating not being able to speak directly to an operator and just get things sorted.
Location of venue	3	Easy access, close to public transport links
External signage and signposting	4	Good
Internal directional signage	3	Reasonable

<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>
Access and provision for disabled people	3	Lift available for physically disabled. I was not aware of any audio loop or braille signage
Timing of the event	4	7.30pm fine.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	4	Very friendly and efficient staff
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding <sup>3</sup>	4	Logo clearly displayed on marketing material, programme and theatre's funders page

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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.