



Scottish **Arts** Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/company: Scottish Dance Theatre

Venue: Dundee Rep Theatre

Title of Event: Spring Season '04

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

performance

Date of Visit: 21/02/04

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:

Very Poor – standard falls well below what is acceptable.

Poor – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.

Competent – routine rather than especially interesting.

Good – well conceived and executed

Excellent – conceived and executed to a high standard.

1. **Artistic Assessment** - please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event taking account of the following:

1.1 Vision and imagination

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: There seemed to be a theme running through the programme of emotional self exploration. While each piece was artistically interesting and excellently danced, the music was fairly uniform throughout the evening.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.2 Clarity of communication

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: The dancers engaged the audience fully throughout the show.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.3 Quality of production

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: A high quality production.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

You are also asked to **assess the strengths and weaknesses** of the event with specific reference to the following:

1.4 Choreography (including originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc)

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: <i>Moment</i> – 7 dancers, 25 mins. Good interation between the dancers, contrasting stillness with motion. A variety of solos, duets and group dances which worked well to engage the audience. On first viewing my favourite. <i>Broken</i> – 2 dancers, 13 mins. This felt longer, and was possibly the most difficult for the audience with unsettling images being created within the piece. The use of projection was interesting to create the performance space. A mixture of solo and duet – both beutifully danced <i>Track</i> - 6 dancers, 37 mins. A good variety of solo, duet and group work and inspired use of masking tape. Some humour in this piece, which could be exploited more.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.5 Performers – including technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Technically excellent and beautiful to watch. Some stronger performers than others.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.6 Sound – appropriateness of sound/music to the production. Please also indicate whether the music was performed live or recorded, in whole or in part, and what effect this had on the quality of the production.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Recorded sound was used throughout the show. There was little variation within the style of the music – a bit samey.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.7 Design – including costume, set, lighting design.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Interesting use of lighting and projection to create performance areas within the stage.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.8 Technical standards – comment on the whether the production was technically well presented (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Very slick turn arounds between pieces.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.9 Overall production – assess the success of the production in relation to any stated aims (e.g. in the programme or other printed material)

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Aim – for people to enjoy the show. This seemed to be achieved with people leaving the theatre in good spirits, talking about the production. Also – to provide a performing arts service of the highest quality for the city of Dundee and Tayside Region. As SDT now has an international reputation, this has been achieved and exceeded.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.10 Audience – assess the appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size of the audience and record their reaction.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Full house, on home territory on a Saturday. The audience were fully engaged with the work.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and by the venue. Please answer, where relevant, with reference to the checklist below adding any other comments/observations you may have.

2.1 Suitability of the venue for the event.

Dundee Rep is a well established venue with a good dance floor.

2.2 Information/interpretive material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc), including the range of materials, quantity and clarity.

Free programmes given out, good display material around the theatre foyer

- 2.3 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.

Leaflets distributed late January, simple, but effective. Web site easy to use and visually interesting. Some photos took a while to download, so I had read the text before the page was fully there.

- 2.4 Accessibility of the venue, including:

- Ease of booking and payment
n/a

- location of venue

Good central location, near public transport

- external signposting and signage

Good

- internal directional signage

Reasonable

- access and provision for disabled people

Lift available for physically disabled. I was not aware of any audio loop or braille signage

- timing of the event

8pm – gives people time to eat before the theatre

- 2.5 Customer service, including: quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering).

Friendly and efficient

3. Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding (if applicable)

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.

Logo clearly displayed on marketing material, programme and home page

4. Scoring

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.

Overall an enjoyable evening, watching excellent dancers.

Rating: Excellent

Name: Susan Hay

Date: 24/02/04

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer ✓