



Scottish Arts Council

**ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE**

**Artist/Company:** Scottish Dance Theatre

**Venue:** Southside

**Title of Event:** Luxuria

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

**Date of Visit:** 25 August

**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).

I did not enjoy it but I admired it. On the plus side was great imagination and vision, as well as execution. On the minus side was a certain frigidity, a distance created from the audience and a quality of posing from the performers. The narrative ended, I am afraid, on a cliché we were expecting from early on.

Marks 4

Name: Julian Forrester

Date: 26/8/05

Specialist Advisor

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	4+	Almost full marks. Cliché at the end rather reduced the vision thing
Clarity of communication	5	The piece set about its business with intent, repeating as necessary, to make the points. But repetitions built into a coherent whole, we began to know the couples...
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	4	We got very little in advance about the intent of the piece. A half A4 one side only was a bit thin. Little if no stuff in the foyer. But I am sure the production would have done what it said on the tin if there had been one.... High quality, most watchable, sexy.

## 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	Sometimes the duets were unfocussed – the eye was unsure where to look. If that was intended, it still meant one did not take one thing in for long enough for fear of missing another. But otherwise marvellous
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	5	Very brave, talented, committed. Such a good company.
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	5	The music added a sinister quality. It created an atmosphere which almost led the dancers into their moves, making its effect powerful and disturbing. Really good.
Design – costume, set, lighting	4	The hoop dresses an obvious feature and integral to the choreography. Well executed, although pleased once they came off and we could see the bodies moving.
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	4	Good
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction		Big audience. Very pleased with what they saw. It had the feel of a hit with them. I expect good notices had brought the right audiences to the production. Well done SDT

### 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	4	Good but unremarkable venue for dance.
Information/ interpretive material at venue <sup>1</sup>	2	Not good. None in evidence.
Publicity/ pre-publicity <sup>2</sup>	2	Saw little except reviews
Ease of booking and payment	3	No problems
Location of venue	3	Just within the Fringe boundaries. OK
External signage and signposting	3	No difficulty finding the theatre. No sign of what was going on inside, however.
Internal directional signage	3	Simple way in and out.
Access and provision for disabled people	2	I did not ask, but saw no means of access to the auditorium except by stairs.
Timing of the event	3	11.30 was OK: a condition of being in the Fringe, tho perhaps SDT could have negotiated a later time?
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	4	Box office staff friendly and helpful. Loved the tea ladies in the tea room, as well as the older ladies and gentlemen who share the café with fringe audiences.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding <sup>3</sup>	3	Only appeared on the half A4. But it appeared.

<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

<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.