



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/company: Dannsa – STDT event

Venue: Museum of Scotland

Title of Event: Dannsa at the Museum

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

Date of Visit: 30/11/03

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: Use of well known Scottish dance (Gay Gordons) to get audience participation, alongside two other dance pieces combining a variety of traditional dance styles.
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: Good communication with the audience.
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: Informal setting for show, good quality of production
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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: Choreography used a variety of traditional dance styles and varied the number of dancers performing to create pieces that engaged the audience.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Performers enjoyed performing and this came across to the audience, who reflected this enjoyment. The performers are leaders in their field as to technical standard and performance skills.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Three live musicians were used, which added to the ceilidh style of performance. At times there was feedback, but this did not deter from the overall quality of the musicians.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.7 Design – including costume, set, lighting design.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: n/a
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: A few problems with the sound amplifier – feedback.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
Good		
Excellent		

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 <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: An enjoyable introduction to Scottish Traditional Dance.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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 <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Approximately 60 in the audience ranging covering all ages. Audience members were encouraged to join in part of the show, and generally enjoyed the enthusiasm of the performers.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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.

Good

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

Information on STDT available.

- 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.

Information in the Museum's brochure and STDT website. STDT website easy to use and generally up to date.

- 2.4 Accessibility of the venue, including:

- Ease of booking and payment

n/a

- location of venue

Good

- external signposting and signage

Good

- internal directional signage

Good

- access and provision for disabled people

Good

- timing of the event

Two performances on Sunday afternoon – good to catch general Museum goers

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

n/a

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. Use of logo clearly presented in all STDT material.

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.

Good – a lively performance/demonstration by Dannsa that drew in the audience and got people dancing.

Name: Susan Hay

Date: 15/1/04

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer ✓