

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Organisation: Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust

Venue: National Museum of Scotland

Title of Event: Early Dance

Type of Event: Dance Performance

Date of Visit: 11th May 2003

1. Artistic Assessment

1.1 Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event - its Vision and Imagination; Ability to Communicate and Quality of Production.

This was a highly enjoyable event. The group of Baroque dancers performed period pieces in duets, trios, fours and the whole group of 6 dancers. The group were very well rehearsed and their performance was communicated very effectively to the audience.

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

- **Size of company and length of piece.**
The group consists of two male and four female dancers. There were four musicians. The whole show lasted for 40 minutes.
- **Choreography, originality of work and use of space.**
The dances were reconstructed Baroque period pieces. They used the space in the courtyard in the New Museum of Scotland very well.
- **Standard and technique of performers, and power of communication.**
The quality of performance was high and the performers communicated well with the audience. At the end of the performance the dancers and musicians were available to answer questions from audience members informally.
- **Music (appropriateness for choreography and quality of musicians/tape).**
Having live musicians playing Baroque music really brought the space to life and enhanced the dance performance.
- **Design (set, costumes, etc.).**
The period costumes were of quality. It is highly appropriate and would actually seem impossible for dancers to produce this kind of dancing without period costumes. There was no set, but the courtyard in the New Museum of Scotland provided a suitable venue.

- **Technical Standards (lighting, sound, etc.).**
The performance would have been enhanced a little if the person introducing each dance could have had a microphone as his voice was inaudible in that space and it would have been interesting to hear more about the dances. The music was not affected and was completely audible.
- **Appropriateness of programme of work for the audience.**
The audience was made up of all ages. Clearly some people had come specifically for the event and others happened upon the performance whilst visiting the museum. The museum seems an appropriate venue to attract new dance audiences.
- **Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work**
There were approximately 70 – 80 people in the audience. Chairs had been provided and there was plenty of space for people to stand. As the space is a circulation area, visitors to the museum were attracted to parts of the performance and therefore the total audience number is probably higher. Most of the audience stayed for the entire performance. The audience were very appreciative.

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.

The courtyard of the New Museum of Scotland is an appropriate place for dance demonstrations. However, if people need to speak, they should be provided with a microphone as voices are lost in that space. I would look forward to seeing more dance performance of different dance styles in that space as it has the potential of attracting museum visitors and new dance audiences.

2.2 Information/Interpretative material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays) - range, quantity and clarity.

There was a panel describing the event.

2.3 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the event (leaflets/posters, etc) - range, content and when and where available

Through STDT mailing and National Museums of Scotland information.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue:

- **ease of payment** N/A – free event
- **location** Town centre
- **direction**

- **access for disabled people**

- **timing of event**

The afternoon timing was suitable for this kind of event.

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

The museum staff were helpful in directing people to the event.

3. Background to your visit

3.1 Have you seen the work of this artist/company before?

NO

3.2 Is this your first visit to this venue?

NO