



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/company: STDT

Venue: various

Title of Event: Traditional Dance Festival

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

Date of Visit: 12/03/04

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: The Festival combines a variety of traditional dance styles, using quality teachers for the workshops. Early Dance Class included in Historic Scotland Education's workshop on Robert Bruce. Good integration of dance to the existing workshop. Traditional Dance Teachers' Training – well structured, simple to follow and to teach to a class, pulling together ways of using traditional steps in a modern/ethnic way Old time ? – teaching 'lost' social dances. Interesting mix of dances taught to an experienced dance group
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 tutors were very personable and led the classes well. Dances were fairly easily picked up by all participants
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.3 Quality of production

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: n/a
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		

Good		
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 <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Various dances were taught, using existing choreography, at a level appropriate to the class members.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Rating n/a.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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: Recorded sound was used, at times the quality was a bit poor. Live percussionist was used for the Teacher Training session, which helped the class flow smoothly and introduced members to different styles of music for traditional steps.
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: n/a
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: The aim of the festival is to get people to participate in and enjoy traditional dancing. This was achieved in part, as all participants enjoyed the teaching sessions. However, the numbers participating were low. This may improved over the weekend.
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Early dance – about 14 participants in each session Traditional Dance Teacher Training – 3-4 teachers, but other STDT members participated within the class to swell the numbers to 9. Old time dance – 8 participants
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.

Various halls in Stirling Castle – small spaces, not suitable for many more participants. Changing within toilets.

Boys Brigade hall – warm and suitable for movement. Sticky floor. Fluorescent lighting. Changing facilities available. Could support a lot of people dancing.

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

Posters around Stirling about the Festival. Directional signs and balloons for workshops in Boy's Brigade Hall. Historic Scotland undertook to direct participants in the Castle.

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.

Company website has clear information about all classes offered. Brochure sent out in reasonable time and distributed widely

2.4 Accessibility of the venue, including:

- Ease of booking and payment
n/a

- location of venue

Old town of Stirling easily accessible by public transport. Parking more challenging.

- external signposting and signage

As above - good

- internal directional signage

n/a

- access and provision for disabled people

Full provision for disabled people at both venues

- timing of the event

Classes throughout the day to support a variety of clients

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.

Logo clearly displayed on home page and on brochure.

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.

The classes were well managed with a lot of material covered in a short space of time.

Rating: Good

Teacher Training Class - Excellent

Name: Susan Hay

Date: 16/03/04

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer ✓