



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/Company: Y Dance

Venue: Byre Theatre

Title of Event: October break holiday course

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

Date of Visit: 20/10/04

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).

4 – Good. Y Dance made the children work hard, but the participants responded well to this and there was a lot of laughter.

Name: Susan Hay

Date: 28/10/04

Specialist Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer ✓

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	The underlying dance style was street dance for this workshop, but was accompanied by live music – drums and percussion – which meant that more creative dance could be introduced in a way that was accepted by the children. Earlier, the musician also had introduced the participants to different rhythms, allowing them to try out the instruments, adding another dimension to the workshops.
Clarity of communication	4 3	Andy Howitt was leading the workshops and the children followed the directions quickly, easily and with enthusiasm. Peter had a different teaching style, which broke the movement sequences down and taught them at a slower pace. The children took longer to grasp these movement sequences. It seemed that having been used to a faster pace, their brains became sluggish when given information at a slower pace. It may also have been that they were getting tired.
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	4	Y Dance fully engaged the young people participating and was working towards putting on a dance show containing 5 different dances. This is a lot to achieve within a week.

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	3	Because 5 pieces were being created in a few days, the choreography was varied. Some work was created using basic choreographic methods, but it was new to the children and they enjoyed the creative process.
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate		n/a – children's workshop
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	5	Live music used throughout. This was a highlight as it made the workshop process more fluid and dynamic.
Design – costume, set, lighting		n/a

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)		n/a
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction		n/a 15 participants at the workshop – numbers limited by the space

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	Fully accessible, nice working space for dance
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	4	Poster on the notice board in the theatre about the workshops
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²		Not aware of any
Ease of booking and payment		n/a
Location of venue	4	Centrally located within St Andrews. Parking limited nearby.
External signage and signposting	4	Good
Internal directional signage	3	Reasonable
Access and provision for disabled people	5	Fully accessible with lift available for wheelchair users.
Timing of the event	4	October half term break
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	3	I waited at the reception for information on where to go, but spotted Andy before I was attended (five min wait)

¹ These include programmes, displays etc., assessing the range, quality and clarity

² 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

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ³	4	On poster

³ 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.