



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: Y Dance

Title of Event: 321 Go! Dance for 4-7 year olds

Type of Event: Workshop

Date of Visit: 10th March 2005

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.)

Very good. This was a well delivered and researched event.

Name: Sally Hobson

Date: 14th March 2005

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please tick 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:

1.	Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
1.1	Vision and imagination	Very good	Katy McKeown, is the dance development officer for Y Dance, and ran the workshop for ten participants. The participants ranged from primary teachers to play therapists. The event was organised by Children in Scotland as part of their programme of arts training days. There were ten people booked into the workshop, although only nine appeared. They were a very enthusiastic bunch of people, and they seemed to enjoy themselves a great deal. They were set quite a lot of different tasks throughout the day, which meant that they worked very hard. The teacher was very enthusiastic and encouraged a lot of participation from her "pupils".
1.2	Clarity of Communication	Excellent	<p>The event was aimed at teaching primary teachers the best way to introduce dance into the daily curriculum of 4-7 years old. The day was very well structured and taught a wide range of skills. These skills included how to use the CD-rom and how to work with the information on the programme in the classroom. How to make information work in a classroom setting.</p> <p>The CD-rom which accompanies the training day is very clear and helpful. The tasks set were very helpful for the teachers searching for ideas for delivery in the classroom.</p> <p>Everything that was being taught and being explored appeared to be very clear and well researched. There was a lot of background information on how the 4-7yr old child works physically and how the dance skills being taught are geared up the physical needs of the growing child.</p> <p>There was a good balance between intellectual information and guidance and practical work. This made the day very interesting.</p>

2. Strengths and Weaknesses

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the event with reference to the following:

2.	Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
2.1	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions	N/A	Not appropriate.

2.2	Direction	N/A	The workshop was well structure and devised.
2.3	Standard of Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in you comments	N/A	
2.4	Use of Music ¹	Good	There was a wide range of different music available to encourage the participants to get excited about getting their children involved in the movement tasks. There were lots of suggestions on the CD-rom too and access to different styles of music.
2.5	Use of Movement/ Choreography	Excellent	<p>This was obviously a very strong section of the workshop, and the leader's ideas were central to the development and use of the material for the teachers. Katy McKeown is a very experienced teacher and also was able to provide a lot of suggestions to help the teachers think about how they generate ideas for themselves and also how to think through simple choreography.</p> <p>The workshop helped to de-mystify dance and thus make it accessible. The teachers were encouraged to get excited about their ideas and how to work with lots of different challenges that might crop up in the classroom.</p>
2.6	Design ² – including set, costume and lighting design	N/A	
2.7	Technical Standards – was the production professionally presented from a technical point of view	N/A	Everything worked.
2.8	Audience Response – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	Excellent	The participants enjoyed themselves. They clearly wanted to be there to learn. The leader was very experienced at putting people at ease with themselves in terms of getting them up to move and to do new tasks. It was enjoyable to watch.

¹ In particular, please comment on the quality and appropriateness of any original music composed for the production. Please indicate whether the music was performed live or recorded, in whole or in parts, and what effect this has on the quality of the production.

² Take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue and, where appropriate, the touring schedule

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.

3.	Criteria	Comments
3.1	Suitability of the venue for the event	Suitable venue. North Edinburgh Arts Centre has lots of very good facilities and it was well supported by this event. It was an excellent event to put this space.
3.2	Information/ interpretive material at venue ³	Good support pack
3.3	Publicity/ pre-publicity ⁴	N/A
3.4	Ease of booking and payment	N/A
3.5	External signage and signposting	N/A
3.6	Internal directional signage	N/A
3.7	Access and provision for disabled people	N/A
3.8	Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	Good
3.9	Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)	N/A
3.10	Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding ⁵	On Website and materials

³ These include programmes, displays etc., including the range, quality and clarity.

⁴ Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the range, content, and when and where available. Be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised, commenting on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information

⁵ 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.