

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: TAG as part of Children's Festival at the Traverse
Title of event: Dr. Korzcak's Example
Type of event: Performance
Date of visit: 28/05/2002

1. Artistic assessment

Please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event - its vision and imagination; ability to communicate; and quality of production.

A "difficult" subject based on a true story – an orphanage within the Jewish ghetto in Nazi Germany, and exploring issues of identity, might versus right etc. This was treated sensitively and imaginatively, with few concessions to a younger audience. Although the play, inevitably, had a tragic ending for most of the characters, it nevertheless had lots of humour and human interest.

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

Script (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions)

This was good – taking the audience into small, intimate scenes concentrating on one or two characters then also out into the wider world of the time with its violence and fear. The end, when the comparatively sheltered world of the orphanage is shattered by the round up of the inmates by the SS, has suspense and pathos in equal measure.

Direction

Excellent use of props (puppets representing various characters, sometimes used with the characters they represent, sometimes instead of.) The different moods of the scenes were well reflected by strong direction.

Standard of Performers

All three performers (Mary Gapinski, Garry Collins and Michael Roberts) were extremely convincing in their roles and worked well together.

Design

An effective touring set by Evelyn Barbour. David Young deserves recognition for his expressive and imaginative puppets and props.

Technical Standards

Adequate

Overall Production

A moving and thought-provoking piece with good overall production standards.

Appropriateness of production for the audience

Appropriate.

Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work

Traverse – but different seating configuration so I think 100. A full house of young people and adults who had a good reaction to the play. Unfortunately the seating was designed by a sadist – so uncomfortable that it effected one’s ability to concentrate. I overheard comments from adults and young people/children to this effect. (Maybe it’s designed for *very* small children’s bottoms?)

2. Management of event

2.1 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.

2.2 Suitability of the venue for the event:

Venue fine – seating the worst I’ve ever sat on (not the usual Traverse seating.)

2.3 **Information/interpretative material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc.**

range, quantity and clarity.

Free programme that was informative.

2.4 **Publicity/pre publicity for the event (leaflets, posters, etc.):**

range, content and when and where available.

In Children’s Festival brochure.

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

Ease of payment	Fine
Location	Fine
Direction	?
Access for disabled people	Lift

Customer service:

Quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)

Friendly and efficient as ever.

3. Background to your visit

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

3.2 Is this your first visit to this venue? No