

# THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

## Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: TAG at The Palace, Kilmarnock  
Title of event: The Good Woman of Setzuan  
Type of event: Performance  
Date of visit: 25/10/2002

### 1. Artistic assessment

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

This took a fairly straightforward approach. The production came across as somewhat tired – although it is difficult to pinpoint one specific area that caused this.

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)

A modern classic – I suspect that one either takes to Brecht or doesn't.

#### **Direction**

By James Brining. His direction made the best physical and visual use of the two level set. I felt that the actors needed some help to enable them to be more convincing (and convinced themselves) in their roles.

#### **Standard of Performers**

Generally reasonable ensemble playing, although there was somehow a lack of conviction from all of the cast (with the exception of Molly Innes as the good woman.)

#### **Design**

The set was cluttered and messy, which worked quite well. The lighting was good, especially in the gods' scenes (and especially when one remembers this was a touring production.) The costumes were slightly bizarre – a mish-mash of styles and times that was so strange that it provided a distraction from the action.

#### **Technical Standards**

Adequate.

#### **Overall Production**

This was a decent production that somehow missed the mark. It failed to inspire or truly engage the heart or mind.

#### **Appropriateness of production for the audience**

Seemed appropriate.

**Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work**

Appeared to be generally an older audience – very few young people. Considering this was TAG this suggests the marketing didn't work – but maybe this is a peculiarity of this venue. A polite rather than enthusiastic reaction.

**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:**

Adequate. Non-theatre public spaces could be improved – but would probably require major building work.

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

range, quantity and clarity  
Informative programme.

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

range, content and when and where available.

**2.5 Accessibility of the venue:**

Ease of payment	Fine
Location	?
Direction	?
Access for disabled people	Adequate but could be improved.

**Customer service:**

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

**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