

**THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL**  
**ARTISTIC EVALUATION - DRAMA**

**Organisation/Venue:** TAG at Citizens Studio Theatre  
**Title of Event:** Love Like Salt  
**Type of Event:** Performance  
**Date of Visit:** 1/4/04

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 a Council Officer, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work, 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

### 1.1 Vision and Imagination.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>This was a well conceived and well executed piece of professional educational theatre.</p> <p>A great deal of planning and organisation had obviously taken place to reach a final production which cleverly, meaningfully and aesthetically integrated aspects of work created by participants in the outreach development phase of this project.</p> <p>The production used a range of media (eg video, storytelling, physical theatre, performance, lighting etc) which collaborated extremely well to create a magical, engaging and accessible piece of theatre suitable for adults as well as young people.</p>
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	<b>x</b>	

### 1.2 Clarity of Communication.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>The production was very clearly communicated. There was a strong engagement between the performers and the audience (with some interactive moments). The performance I viewed was attended by participants from the outreach phase. The production's themes and delivery of the piece therefore had particular impact on this audience.</p>
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

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

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

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>The script was very engaging, easy to follow and contained some very witty lines. It had a nice balance of</p>

Poor		humour and meaning. The characters and plot gelled well together. The use of metaphor beautifully enhanced some moments, providing extra enjoyment and interpretation.
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

#### 1.4 Direction

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>This was very well directed by Emily Gray. A huge task was set in pulling so many different elements together. A great deal of thought and vision had enabled the integration of outreach elements to work so well with the live theatre. The simple use of space and various multi media devices effectively guided the audience into the land of the story. This approach also enhanced the meaning of the piece and created a clear focus for the action and interaction of characters.</p> <p>There were some lovely visual, physical and symbolic elements (eg cold bears, warm mother, use of salt etc). The interspersing of video and lighting effects were effectively delivered. I really liked the way one participant's drawing of a fish was enhanced to look as if it was swimming in water. This must have provided a thrilling moment for the young person involved.</p>
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	<b>x</b>	

#### 1.5 Standard of performers- where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>A good strong cast committed to the piece. It appeared to me that the cast's involvement in the development and devising processes likely provided them with a sense of ownership and enjoyment as well as a strong desire to communicate and commune with the audience.</p>
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

**1.6 Use of music** – 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 part, and what effect this had on the quality of the production.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

Live song was delivered well and appropriate to the atmosphere of the piece.

**1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography**

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

Physical theatre elements were delivered skilfully and provided effective characterisation at times.

**1.8 Design** – including set, costume and lighting design. Please take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue, and, where appropriate, the touring schedule.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

This was a beautifully designed production (set, costume, lighting design). I loved the use of the circle/screen on the floor. It harnessed the action but also provided a screen for some excellent filmic effects (eg depicting the fire).

The circle screens on the walls which presented inter-related action from the outreach programme were effective in creating extra layers of context and meaning.

Good lighting and sound effects.

**1.9 Technical Standards** – please comment on whether the production was professionally presented from a technical point of view.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

**1.10 Overall production** – was the production successful overall in relation to any stated aims (e.g. in the programme or other printed material, and stated aims and objectives)

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>x</b>	
Excellent		

**1.11 Was the performance appropriate for the audience?**

Yes

**1.12 Estimated size of audience and reaction to the production.**

Full house. The audience was riveted throughout. Some young people sat cross legged or reclined on the seats indicating that they felt at ease within the live theatre setting.

## **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 Was the venue suitable for the event?**

Yes.

### **2.2 Information/Interpretive material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc)**

- range, quantity and clarity.

Fine. The programme gave good background information.

### **2.3 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the Event (leaflets, posters, etc)**

- 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.

Fine

### **2.4 Accessibility of the venue**

- ease of payment
- location
- external signposting
- internal directional signing
- access and provision for disabled people
- timing of event

Fine.

### **2.5 Customer service**

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

Fine.

**3. Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding** (if applicable)

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 and 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, and computer programmes etc. "*

Please comment on whether the above conditions of grant were met, including use and prominence of the Scottish Arts Council logo on the company's website.

Appropriately acknowledged.

**Name:** Angela Hogg

**Date:** 14 May 2004.

**Advisor**

**Scottish Arts Council Officer**

**x**

*(Please tick above as appropriate)*