

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
SPECIALIST ADVISER ARTISTIC EVALUATION - DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: TAG Theatre Co/Citizens Theatre

Title of Event: Love Like Salt

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: 31st March 2004

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 <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: This was a well-constructed and well-put together show. Vision and imagination was strongly evident in how the show used the contribution of elders and school pupils. Nice casting, simple and effective design. Play based on a folk tale told throughout the world, and adapted for a west coast of Scotland re-telling. This kind of project is an excellent example of how TAG uses its tradition of strong links with schools and an understanding of the methods required to successfully integrate drama with the education system/community system through this excellent intergenerational work.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.2 Clarity of Communication.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Strong casting permitted for good clarity of communication, backed up well by the good research and use of media. The story was told well; simply and effectively acted by the minimum of three actors and a cast of 20-30 film appearances by the elders and pupils. Well integrated and supportive of each other.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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 <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: The script was based on a folk tale but arranged from ideas drawn over the weeks of preparation and ideas generated by the intergenerational workshops. The creative ideas and hopes for the project were well handled, and transferred through a workshop process and onto stage. Having been at one of the workshops, the final results shows how the company worked hard to harness the ideas and to make such a charming and poignant piece of theatre speak to its participants as well as to a neutral audience.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.4 Direction

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Strong ideas well held together. Good use of three actors, media and material gathered. Simple and good use of performance space. The performance was well produced, especially given the complexities of its current situation with artistic director changeover.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

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

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Good. The actors were well cast and flexible. Storyteller/fool played by Angela Knowles led some lovely and charming singing. Neil Anderson played the king well and moved through some nice comic and ironic moments as a polar bear. Itxaso Moreno played rebellious daughter thoughtfully and energetically.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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: Tuneful singing throughout blended well with natural charm of piece.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Performance space small, but were possible, movement and imaginative choreographed action was integrated.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

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: Simple, and effective. Community film and children's artwork was allowed to speak set in such a simple context.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

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: Good
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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: Well produced to a high professional standard. The show exuded a strong personality of its own and great generosity towards all involved.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.11 Was the performance appropriate for the audience?
YES

1.12 Estimated size of audience and reaction to the production.

Full

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.

Good

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.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue

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

All appropriate

2.5 Customer service

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

Good, very helpful.

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.

Yes, present in the appropriate places

Name: Sally Hobson

Date: 3rd April 2004

Advisor

X

**Scottish Arts
Council Officer**

(Please tick above as appropriate)