

# THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

## Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: Theatre Babel at the Lyceum  
Title of event: Uncle Vanya  
Type of event: Performance  
Date of visit: 22/05/2002

### 1. Artistic assessment

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

A strong vision of how the production should come across was apparent in every aspect of the production. Played very much as a tragedy, it was a fairly bleak story, but nevertheless engaged the audience's attention throughout.

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)

New version by Tom Lennard. Flowed very well.

#### **Direction**

Very strong. Graham McLaren demonstrating his typical spatial awareness and concentrating on a fairly straightforward delivery of the script.

#### **Standard of Performers**

Mixed although generally good. Excellent performances from Isabelle Joss (Sonya) who seemed to grow into her part as the play progressed and also from John Kazak (Dr.Astrov.) Unfortunately Clara Onyemere (Helena) failed to convince as Helena, giving a somewhat wooden performance.

#### **Design**

Simple and extremely effective. Wonderful lighting that added greatly to the production.

**Technical Standard** Very good.

#### **Overall Production**

A good production in most respects, with high production standards evident.

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

Seemed appropriate

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

Good 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:**

Fine

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

range, quantity and clarity.

Posters. Didn't get a chance to buy a programme.

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

range, content and when and where available.

Flyers – strong b/w image.

**2.5 Accessibility of the venue:**

Ease of payment N/A (invitation)

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)  
FOH efficient.

**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