

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

**Organisation/Venue:** THEATRE BABEL @ CITIZENS' THEATRE, GLASGOW

**Title of Event:** THEBANS

**Type of Event:** PERFORMANCE

**Date of Visit:** 02/09/03

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.**

<b>Rating for this section</b> <i>(Please tick)</i>		<b>Comments and key reasons for rating:</b> This is an important piece of work from established theatre artists. It is a response to the dramas of Sophocles and Euripedes. It conflates a number of plays into a single evening. It shows great enterprise and courage.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	√	
Excellent		

**1.2 Clarity of Communication.**

<b>Rating for this section</b> <i>(Please tick)</i>		<b>Comments and key reasons for rating:</b> The production was simply and clearly presented. A great deal of time and thought had gone into paring the production back to some very strong visual statements.
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 by Liz Lochhead is excellent. Without any sense of strain it uses the Scots language in a style that is readily intelligible and profound.. There is a fierce intellect at work here and one which the audience responded to with great appreciation.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	√	

**1.4 Direction**

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: The direction was simple and clear. A measure of it's success were during the scenes containing male and female nudity. Given that the audience had a large number of school/ youth groups this can often be a licence for giggling. The audience was rapt throughout.
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: It would be invidious to single out any single performance in a production that was rooted in ensemble. There was not a weak performance. However, I was not entirely convinced that the complete emotional weight of the text was fully exploited. But this a subjective response that I know others in the audience did not share.
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: The music was recorded and was used very effectively to ambiently colour the production.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	√	
Excellent		

**1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography**

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Deliberately clear, restrained and expressive.
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: The design was again simple and clear with use of multi media. Some commentators had criticised this aspect of the production. I thought it entirely appropriate..
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: <b>The production was presented to a high standard. However, on the night I saw the production one projector was clearly slightly out of alignment</b>
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: <b>Entirely successful.</b> The stark staging and strong clear performances allowed the text to emerge with a striking clarity.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	√	
Excellent		

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

Entirely appropriate.

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

**300.**

Two curtain calls with applause that continued after the house lights had come up. Very positive buzz in the foyer afterwards. Lots of young people.

## 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. Entirely appropriate. At just over two hours – the evening was perfectly judged. There was a set that suited the venue, a good number of actors to fill the stage and an excellent story. These elements are not always present.

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

Programmes were free and a copy of the text was for sale in the foyer. All the material was clear and well presented.

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

Leaflets were prominently displayed and the the production was clearly advertised on the hoardings on the exterior of the theatre.

The event attracted good audiences throughout its week at the Citizens'.

The company website is striking and informative. Some larger organisations should be advised to view the site.

### 2.4 Accessibility of the venue

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

2.5 Customer service

GOOD

**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.

The Scottish Arts Council is prominently acknowledged on the excellent company website and on all material.

**Name: Jon Pope**

**Date: 11/10/03**

**Advisor**



**Scottish Arts Council Officer**



*(Please tick above as appropriate)*