



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – MUSIC

Organisation/Venue: THEATRE CRYPTIC

Title of Event: TROJAN WOMEN

Type of Event: PERFORMING ARTS

Date of Visit: 12/08/05

Overall Rating (Please rate the production overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. the particular strengths and weaknesses. NB: for multiple performances or festivals, or if you prefer please feel free to use headings for a more extensive commentary. Please note the artistic assessment according to the rating detailed below)

Overall rating for this production is 3.

The production was extremely well executed but badly conceived. The inclusion and complexity of the many technologies obliterated the outstanding text by Brendan Kennelly.

Name: DEE ISAACS

Date: 24/08/05

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 an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and 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:

- 1-Very Poor** – standard falls well below what is acceptable.
- 2-Poor** – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.
- 3-Competent** – routine rather than especially interesting.
- 4-Good** – well conceived and executed
- 5-Excellent** – conceived and executed to a high standard.

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please circle the relevant title

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1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, taking account of the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Quality of production – was the event successful overall in relation to any stated aims (e.g. in the programme or other printed material)	3	The production embraced the idea of presenting theatre as a multi-media experience and the performance showed very high production values. Unfortunately the technological input was over-bearing and detracted from meaning of the words.
Vision and imagination	3	There is no doubt that the company has vision but in this instance I felt it was misjudged. The sound and visuals were comparatively weak and didn't stand up to the text. Music has the possibility to add another level of understanding , to reveal a subtext but in this instance it did not enhance our experience. The stage seemed cluttered with superfluous things;live video, visuals, sound design, and in fact the text everything.
Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments	5	All performances were strong in particular the women's chorus
Quality of Presentation – was the professionally presented from a technical point of view	5	The production was presented to a very high standard with no apparent technical difficulties
Audience – assess the appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	3	The audience was approximately 60 adults. The performance was part of a festival run. I think reactions to the performance seemed very varied. A few people questioned the role of music in this type of production and the real debate of whether or not it makes good theatre to include many technologies – do they add anything or not? – particularly in light of the fact this play is 'classical' in its structure . One discussion is perhaps how to create more space in the production if there are lots of words which in themselves deliver the narrative.
Educational Value – comment where appropriate		none

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations.

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Suitability of the venue for the event	3	Last minute change of venue (closure of Gateway) caused some technical difficulties with speakers in the wrong place. No disabled access
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	5	Reviews and posters well displayed. Programme of the highest standard.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	5	Cryptic website is excellent. I would question their statement – music – to ravish the senses . Is this work really about music? Surely it is about theatre
Ease of booking and payment	5	Very easy to book tickets
Location of venue	5	central
External signage and signposting	5	
Internal directional signage	5	
Access and provision for disabled people	1	No disabled access
Timing of the event	1	Most of the performances were programmed for 11.45 p.m
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)	5	
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding ³	5	Well presented programme with clear logo of funders

¹ These include programmes, displays etc., including the range, quality and clarity.

² Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the range, content, and when and where available. Be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised, commenting on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information

³ The 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, 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, computer programmes etc."

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