

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
SPECIALIST ADVISER ARTISTIC EVALUATION - DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: Theatre Workshop

Title of Event: I Have Before me a Remarkable Document....

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: 12 August 2003

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: An interesting topic relating to the inter-communal violence in Rwanda some years ago. It focused on an individual who had survived the killings and thus her personal experienced allowed the audience to empathise with the story. The story unfolded through the development of her relationship with her creative writing tutor in London, and there was therefore scope to show his response to her as an individual and to her story.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.2 Clarity of Communication.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: The production was relatively simple in structure and presentation and was easily followed and clearly presented.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
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: This was a well-written script that held the audiences attention and had moments of lyricism and some moving passages.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.4 Direction

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: The direction was appropriate to the nature of the play. There were some pauses between scenes which were over-long, otherwise the direction was fluid enough. There was a slight awkwardness in the female actor sitting at right angles to the audience at times when talking to the male character. It was not clear why this was necessary and it felt a little strained. Direction was by Andy Mackie.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

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: Both performances were good. Malawi Logan gave a very lucid and expressive performance. The African accent employed had an authentic ring to it. Her voice had a richness of timbre that worked very well for the part, given the strong emotions that she needed to express. Robert Softley seemed to struggle a little with a South of England accent early in the play, but when he did not try to achieve this his performance was clearer.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
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: Recorded music was used at various stages to underscore the action. At some points this was too loud and became obtrusive.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
Good		
Excellent		

1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: No particular comment
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: The design was simple. Some items of set dressing such as the pin board did not really contribute to creating a sense of place, and could have been done without. The tutor's costume was a bit of a cliché in terms of how an academic might be expected to dress, but the girl's costume seemed well-judged. Lighting design was fine.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Technically this was reasonably well presented
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent	x	
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 (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: An interesting play that was presented with integrity and with a simplicity that the script warranted.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.11 Was the performance appropriate for the audience?

Yes- a suitable piece for a Fringe audience.

1.12 Estimated size of audience and reaction to the production.

The studio seemed around half full and the audience was attentive, and responded fairly warmly at the end.

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- but very warm

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

- range, quantity and clarity.

The free, single A4 programme gave details of the creative team with biographies.

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.

The season brochure was well produced and attractive.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue

- ease of payment good
- location fair
- external signposting some room for greater visibility
- internal directional signing reasonable
- access and provision for disabled people fair
- 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.

There was no acknowledgement of Scottish arts Council Funding on the programme sheet.

Name: David Taylor

Date: 24 August 2003

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

x

(Please tick above as appropriate)