

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

**Organisation/Venue:** Theatre Workshop

**Title of Event:** Jasmine Road  
**Type of Event:** Performance

**Date of Visit:** 15 October 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<br><i>(Please tick)</i> |          | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                       |          |                                      |
| Poor  |          |                                      |
| Competent                                       |          |                                      |
| Good  | <b>x</b> |                                      |
| Excellent                                       |          |                                      |

It was positive, and fitting with Theatre Workshop's aims, to see that this production was inspired by the poetry of Palestinian refugee Ghazzi Hussein (as well as international Solidarity Movement activist Rachael Corrie who was killed by an Israeli bulldozer while protecting Palestinian homes in Gaza).

The design and staging of this production were extremely imaginative however at times I felt the delivery of political messages through the text was too literal and provided "a newsreel broadcast" rather than a creative journey which would enable me (as an audience member) to delve deep and completely understand the conflict on a human level.

The Poet's presentation at the end was very moving and added an extra layer of reality to the event.

**1.2 Clarity of Communication.**

| Rating for this section<br><i>(Please tick)</i> |          | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                       |          |                                      |
| Poor  |          |                                      |
| Competent                                       |          |                                      |
| Good  | <b>x</b> |                                      |
| Excellent                                       |          |                                      |

The production very clearly communicated the story in terms of the relationship between the 2 characters and the political events being portrayed.

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<br>(Please tick) |          | Comments and key reasons for rating:   |
|--|----------|--|
| Very Poor                                |          | <p>The relationship between Adham and Rowan and the personal conflicts of each character were skilfully depicted through the script.</p> <p>However there was one scene where Rowan talks at the audience as if she is delivering a political speech. While this gave a flavour of her character as an activist it did not engage me creatively. An opportunity to deliver a more poetic approach which could touch your heart and mind was lost in my view.</p> |
| Poor                                     |          |  |
| Competent                                |          |  |
| Good                                     | <b>x</b> |  |
| Excellent                                |          |  |

**1.4 Direction**

| Rating for this section<br>(Please tick) |          | Comments and key reasons for rating:   |
|--|----------|--|
| Very Poor                                |          | <p>This was a well staged production in terms of the interaction between characters and their use of the space. The incorporation of music, lighting and visuals (such as the falling curtain) provided effective devices which enhanced the piece artistically and emotionally.</p> |
| Poor                                     |          |  |
| Competent                                |          |  |
| Good                                     | <b>x</b> |  |
| Excellent                                |          |  |

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

| Rating for this section<br>(Please tick) |          | Comments and key reasons for rating:  |
|--|----------|---|
| Very Poor                                |          | <p>Nabil Shaban is a powerful actor with a wonderful stage presence which provided quite a challenge for Marnie Baxter.</p> <p>Overall she handled her character well, however there were moments when I was not convinced on a deep level.</p> |
| Poor                                     |          |   |
| Competent                                |          |   |
| Good                                     | <b>x</b> |   |
| 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<br>(Please tick) |          | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                |          |                                      |
| Poor                                     |          |                                      |
| Competent                                |          |                                      |
| Good                                     | <b>x</b> |                                      |
| Excellent                                |          |                                      |

The live and recorded music added a rich, authentic layer to the piece.

**1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography**

| Rating for this section<br>(Please tick) |  | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                |  |                                      |
| Poor                                     |  |                                      |
| Competent                                |  |                                      |
| Good                                     |  |                                      |
| Excellent                                |  |                                      |

Not assessed.

**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<br>(Please tick) |          | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                |          |                                      |
| Poor                                     |          |                                      |
| Competent                                |          |                                      |
| Good                                     |          |                                      |
| Excellent                                | <b>x</b> |                                      |

The sand and writing on the curtains worked well in providing an aesthetically pleasing and atmospheric set.

The falling curtains and lighting/sound effects to depict the bulldozer at the end powerfully and effectively portrayed Rowan's fate.

**1.9 Technical Standards** – please comment on whether the production was professionally presented from a technical point of view.

| Rating for this section<br><i>(Please tick)</i> |          | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                       |          |                                      |
| Poor  |          |                                      |
| Competent                                       |          |                                      |
| Good  | <b>x</b> |                                      |
| Excellent                                       |          |                                      |

The play relied heavily on technical aspects which were delivered well.

**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<br><i>(Please tick)</i> |          | Comments and key reasons for rating: |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Very Poor                                       |          |                                      |
| Poor  |          |                                      |
| Competent                                       |          |                                      |
| Good  | <b>x</b> |                                      |
| Excellent                                       |          |                                      |

Overall this was an interesting, thought provoking and well presented production. The theme provided scope to develop audiences who may not normally attend a theatre event.

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

The audience was very quiet at the end indicating that the production had been thought provoking for them.

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

Less than half 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?**

Suitable

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

- range, quantity and clarity.

The programme gives a lot of information on the political situation around the Palestinian /Israeli conflict. It also contains some of Ghazzi Hussein's poems which are very inspiring. I found Being Human particularly beautiful and thought provoking. The visual are of good quality and give a realistic flavour of the theme.

**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.

Leaflets etc readily available.

**2.4** Accessibility of the venue

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

**2.5** Customer service

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

**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*

Scottish Arts Council Evaluation Form

*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 accredited however the image is very small.

**Name: Angela Hogg**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2004.**

Advisor  Scottish Arts Council Officer  X  
(Please tick above as appropriate)