



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: Theatre Workshop
Title of Event: The Last Little Fish In The Net
Type of Event: Performance
Date of Visit: 10 December 2004

Overall Rating

GOOD

While this piece did not provide the usual “food for thought” which you get from Theatre Workshop productions it appropriately provided a magical and entertaining night out for all ages at Xmas time.

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Date: 7 April 2005

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please tick the relevant title

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:

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, taking account of the following:

1.	Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
1.1	Vision and imagination	Good	While the story itself did not particularly grab me it was good to see Theatre Workshop producing such a relaxed piece of theatre given that the subject matter of their work is often serious and intense. In my view it is important that the inclusive company presents a programme which can balance the (extremely important) political work. This not only shows the range of skills of the disabled actors etc but prevents them from being pigeon holed as only presenting political theatre (in the eyes of the public at large).
1.2	Clarity of Communication	Competent	As mentioned below I sometimes found the plot confusing. At times I also felt that communication out to the audience was not strong enough.

2. Strengths and Weaknesses

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the event with reference to the following:

2.	Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
2.1	Script – particularly in relation to new work or second productions	Competent	A new work by Dolina MacLennan which drew on Scottish myths and legends and provided good subject matter for a Xmas fairy tale. While the basic outline of the story was clear, straightforward and familiar (King with daughters but one is the favourite and she gets to marry the hero) I found the plot of this show slightly confusing and light on substance.
2.2	Direction	Good	The production was well directed by Robert Rae who, yet again, successfully integrated various levels of action with strong visual imagery and lighting design. There were some enchanting and magical moments. The ghostly images were excellent.
2.3	Standard of Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in you comments	Good	A good cast who appeared to be having a great time with the piece. The singing was very good.

2.4	Use of Music ¹	Good	Very good live music and singing.
2.5	Use of Movement/ Choreography	NA	
2.6	Design ² – including set, costume and lighting design	Good	Costumes, set and overall design were good and authentic. As outlined the lighting was very effective.
2.7	Technical Standards – was the production professionally presented from a technical point of view	Good	Technical aspects supported the production effectively.
2.8	Audience Response – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	Good	A full house. A wide-ranging audience. A good reaction to the show.

3. 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.

3.	Criteria	Comments
3.1	Suitability of the venue for the event	Suitable.
3.2	Information/interpretive material at venue ³	A range of material was available. The programme was very in depth and informative.

¹ 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 parts, and what effect this has on the quality of the production.

² Take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue and, where appropriate, the touring schedule

³ These include programmes, displays etc., including the range, quality and clarity.

3.3	Publicity/ pre-publicity ⁴	A great deal of varied publicity.
3.4	Ease of booking and payment	Very easy.
3.5	External signage and signposting	Fine
3.6	Internal directional signage	Fine
3.7	Access and provision for disabled people	Good.
3.8	Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	The show was approximately 90 minutes with no interval. This may have been difficult for younger audiences however I was not aware of any problems.
3.9	Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)	Good.
3.10	Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding ⁵	Appropriately acknowledged.

⁴ 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

⁵ 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.