



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: Theatre Workshop/ Festival Theatre

Title of Event: The Threepenny Opera

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: 2nd July 2004

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.)

Good. Some strong performances, interesting design, high quality production values. Pace was poor, and some scenes felt weaker and with less purpose than others.

Name: Sally Hobson

Date: 17th July 2004

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:

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.

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	A big and bold vision for this production of Kurt Weill's Threepenny Opera. Strong ideas inhabited the production.
1.2	Clarity of Communication	Good	Clear message within the whole production. At times the performers were underpowered which occasionally undermined the communication of some of the dramatic intention.

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	Good	Good
2.2	Direction	Good	Good
2.3	Standard of Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in you comments	Good	Mixed. Strong performance from several key players including Nabil Chaban, Gerry Robson and Cerrie Burnell. Strong supporting performances from Robert Softly and Jim McSherry and rest of cast. Extras used effectively. Pace was very slow in places causing the piece to lose momentum.

2.4	Use of Music ¹	Good	Good
2.5	Use of Movement/ Choreography	Good	The company used the space to its capacity
2.6	Design ² – including set, costume and lighting design	Excellent	Very good and interesting use of backstage space at Festival Theatre. Set and costumes good.
2.7	Technical Standards – was the production professionally presented from a technical point of view	Excellent	The overall production was enhanced by the excellent video and technical support.
2.8	Audience Response – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	Good	Very favourable.

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	An unusual use of the backstage area of the Festival Theatre
3.2	Information/ interpretive material at venue ³	Good

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	Good
3.4	Ease of booking and payment	Good
3.5	External signage and signposting	Good
3.6	Internal directional signage	Good
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?	We lost about 35 people from audience. 15 or so per interval. The piece was over-long.
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	Good

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.