



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: TOSG Tollcross School Edinburgh

Title of Event: A' Chraobh's Airde

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: December 2003

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.)

Name: David Taylor

Date: __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:

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	Competent	Well conceived piece of children's theatre with standard situations. Nothing particularly innovative or original in the staging. The production used fairly standard techniques including audience participation. There was no real sense of magic, beauty or awe that can often be found in children's theatre. Themes of good versus evil, young love, reconciliation and the power of nature were all suggested.
1.2	Clarity of Communication	Good	Not being a Gaelic speaker I cannot comment on the intelligibility of the piece, but it was well projected and the audience seemed to get it all.

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		No Comment
2.2	Direction	Good	Well directed. The pace seemed appropriate and there were a number of bits of business that worked well. Conventional pantomimic elements were used such as chases, audience participation, actors entering audience space,
2.3	Standard of Performers – where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments	Good	The performances were reasonable, though there was nothing extraordinary in the presentation. Two female and two male actors, plus guitarist.
2.4	Use of Music ¹	Good	Atmospheric live traditional guitar music, with an on stage performer

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.

2.5	Use of Movement/ Choreography		N/A
2.6	Design ² – including set, costume and lighting design	Good	A useful flexible set with some interesting detail. Costumes also of good quality. Lighting was atmospheric, despite there being no blackout.
2.7	Technical Standards – was the production professionally presented from a technical point of view	Good	Technically well presented. A fair number of sound cues that were well synchronised.
2.8	Audience Response – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	Good	Children were involved and enjoyed the production. Some smaller children were scared.

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	Adequate. As usual a flat floor and no blackout, which is not unusual in a school setting.
3.2	Information/interpretive material at venue ³	No English synopsis available.
3.3	Publicity/ pre-publicity ⁴	Well produced tour schedule in Gaelic only.
3.4	Ease of booking and payment	N/A

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.

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

3.5	External signage and signposting	N/A
3.6	Internal directional signage	N/A
3.7	Access and provision for disabled people	Wheelchair access would have been possible. There was no enhancement of the production for people with hearing difficulties or the like.
3.8	Timing of the event – was the length appropriate? Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?	Good length for children.
3.9	Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)	N/A
3.10	Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding ⁵	Appropriate on printed material

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.