

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

Organisation/Venue: Traverse Theatre

Title of Event: Greenfields

Type of Event: Performance

Date of Visit: 30 April 2002

1. Artistic Assessment

1.1 Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event - its Vision and Imagination; Ability to Communicate and Quality of Production.

A new play in a contemporary Scottish setting by Ricardo Galgani. The piece was produced to a very high standard, engaged well with its audience, and addressed serious issues of bereavement, relationships and modern living.

1.2 You are also asked to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the event with specific reference to the following:

- **Script (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions)**

The script was well-crafted, revealing the plot by stealth and reaching a satisfying and subtle conclusion. The audience was invited to piece together the sub-text of the surface dialogue to construct a complex web of guilt, recrimination and betrayal. What started as a comedy of manners grew convincingly into a rewarding exposition of a relationship in meltdown.

The writing was witty, well observed and rooted in its social milieu. A possible criticism was that there was a tendency for what could be slightly lazy representation of social pretensions, and it was at these points the writing could have been accused of being slightly cheap. I thought that the careful construction was admirable, though the wife's return to the dining room following Bob's departure was flawed as her lines on entry seemed to betray that she had already left. It is a neat trick to poke fun at pretension and idiocy without demeaning the characters. I

am not sure that Galgini quite managed this and at times resorted to sneering and snobbery.

- **Direction**

The Direction (Roxanna Gilbert) was well-considered and well-paced. The steep rake of Traverse 1, however, requires the actors to lift their heads a little. During the first few scenes one had not enough sight of their faces. There was a little coarse acting allowed in the characters of Chris and Viv, but this was not excessive.

- **Standard of performers**

The performances were all very strong. Each actor succeeded in creating a persona for their character which complemented their colleagues. There were one or two minor slips or hesitation, but nothing untoward on a first night.

- **Design**

A well endowed design –acutely observed and conveying the right level of control with a touch of obsession in the décor.

- **Technical Standards**

This was a technically complex show for the Traverse space, involving three interchangeable spaces. It crossed my mind that this might be excessive, but the thematic importance of the house and its psychological and social significance justified the effort and expense. That said, the design was meticulous and the technical execution equally accomplished.

Costumes were well judged and of good quality.

- **Appropriateness of production for the audience**

A full house was clearly engrossed – enjoyed the humour, and responded warmly at the end.

Overall, a successful opening of an entertaining and thoughtful play

- **Approximate size of audience and reaction**

Full (first night) house. Good reaction.

- **Overall Production**

The usual friendly service from Traverse staff.

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.

2.2 Suitability of the venue for the event:

good

2.3 Information/Interpretative material provided at the venue (eg programmes, displays) - range, quantity and clarity

2.4 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the event (leaflets/posters, etc) - range, content and when and where available

. As usual, the Traverse used a bold and arresting image for the print.

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

- **ease of payment** Good
- **location** Good
- **direction** Good
- **access for disabled people** Good
- **timing of event** Good

2.6 Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (eg box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)

Good

3. Background to your visit

- 3.1 Have you seen the work of this artist/company before? YES**
- 3.2 Is this your first visit to this venue? NO**