

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Organisation/Venue: **Glasgay/Tron Theatre**

Title of Event: **God's New Frock**

Type of Event (e.g. performance, work in progress, workshop): **Performance**

Date of Visit: **15th March 2003**

1. Artistic Assessment

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

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)
- Direction
- Standard of performers
- Design
- Technical Standards
- Overall Production
- Appropriateness of production for the audience
- Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work

1.1

Vision and Imagination

There was a lot to commend this production, not least that John Clifford had written it. I have to say that the promise of an hour spent together that turned out to be an hour and a half investigating why we should not believe all that we were promised in the bible was a tad ironic to say the least. However, I thought that this examination was worthy if a little wordy.

Ability to Communicate

It communicated I the first half hour and then went on for another hour. Could have done with some judicious cutting.

I was genuinely interested in the subject matter but did find that it was ponderous to the point of being soporific.

Quality of Production

When you get a John Clifford piece I suppose you expect to be enthralled and delighted with the results. After all he has penned some classics. Perhaps this brings you into some unfair expectations on the entire experience. I therefore expected a lot more in terms of the production than I got. It appeared to be little less than parlour theatre. I expected the frock to all be used and they weren't. I expected the music to be more integral and it wasn't. I expected it to be more dramatic than it was. My expectations were lead by prior thought rather than coming to the experience fresh as it was. However I do think we could have had something a little more than what we were delivered.

1.2

Script

Repetitive. Thought at times there was a touch of Pinter without the Pinter cliché technique you would expect. I do think that it suffered from NOT having an actor deliver it.

Direction

I thought that it was a tad reverential and could have been more brutal and therefore have improved the piece.

Standard of Performers

Keep on writing John. That's your strength. I thought that this was a good script that can be improved upon but that one of the greatest improvements that could be made is a vigorous rehearsal process in which an actor scrutinises the process.

Design

There was a very little and what there was efficient but again a shoestring budget shone through.

Technical Standards

There were some technical effects that were produced without flourish and competently done. Nice to see an HNC student getting some experience.

Appropriateness

This was an appropriate production to be done as part of Glasgay and in the Counting Room of the Tron. It was good to see John Clifford writing something like this that took on a huge theme but I just wish we would leave the acting to the actors...

Approximate Size and Reaction to Programme of Work

There were around 50 people – three quarters full and they were politely appreciative.

2. Management of Event

2.1 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.

Good to go and see something that wasn't quite as good as I had hoped it would be as it confirm my belief that we need variety. Tron is one of the places for variety and this was well managed.

2.2 Suitability of the venue for the event:

Spot on.

2.3 Information/Interpretative material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc)

- Range, quantity and clarity.

Always very clear and I always like the reviews and previews on the wall. We started a little late so I enjoyed the distraction.

2.4 Publicity/Pre Publicity for the Event (leaflets, posters, etc):

- Range, content and when and where available.

Got a lot of national press that was noticeable.

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

- Ease of payment OK
- Location GOOD
- Direction GOOD
- Access for disabled people GOOD
- Timing of event APPROPRIATE

2.6 Customer service:

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

Excellent.

3. Background to your visit:

3.1 Have you seen the work of this artist/company before? NO

3.2 Is this your first visit to this venue? NO