

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
ARTISTIC EVALUATION - DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: **Visible Fictions /Gilmorehill**
Title of Event: **Monster**
Type of Event: **Performance**
Date of Visit: **19 September 2003**

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 a Council Officer, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work, 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

1.1 Vision and Imagination.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

This was a daring and imaginative, multi media production.

The plot, which involved a young man on trial for robbery and murder, was an exploration into the issues of youth crime, truth, justice, society's attitude to young people and the grey areas of the human condition.

My initial uncertainty over the style of presentation of the live court scenes with its obvious stereotypes settled once I was able to experience it within a bigger theatrical picture.

By providing live film and pre recorded film of past and current events (as well as live theatre) you were given an opportunity to explore complex issues and attitudes through comparison and reflection. To me the different mediums successfully represented different layers, contexts and dynamics eg the stuffiness of judgmental social structures were easily portrayed through the live theatrics while the sensitive, thought provoking behaviour (contradictions to social presumptions) came through the film and special effects elements. The scenes involving the main character's dialogue with his parents were particularly moving and beautiful.

1.2 Clarity of Communication.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

A very complex piece communicated clearly.

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

1.3 Script (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions).

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.4 Direction

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.5 Standard of performers- where performers are not trained, please reflect this in your comments.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		

Poor		Christina Cochrone coped very well with the switching back and forward of their various characters. I particularly enjoyed Christina Cochrones portrayal of the dodgy male witnesses which added a humorous (but scary) reality to the proceedings.
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.6 Use of music – 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 part, and what effect this had on the quality of the production.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		The music by Yngvil Vatn Guttu (and sound effects) were very effective in developing and sustaining the atmosphere of the piece.
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		NA
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.8 Design – including set, costume and lighting design. Please take into account how appropriate the design is in relation to the venue, and, where appropriate, the touring schedule.

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		The minimal design and juxtaposition of film and set was very effective.

Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

1.9 Technical Standards – please comment on whether the production was professionally presented from a technical point of view.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		The piece relied a great deal on technical input which was delivered extremely well. I loved the trick of the book coming out of the screen and the moment when the main character's hand touched his mother's heart using a clever filmic devise.
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.10 Overall production – was the production successful overall in relation to any stated aims (e.g. in the programme or other printed material, and stated aims and objectives)

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		This was an excellent production which successfully fused live theatre and film to unfold a story and its themes in a very creative and meaningful way.
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.11 Was the performance appropriate for the audience?

This production was very relevant to young people and will likely have attracted young audiences who may not normally attend.

1.12 Estimated size of audience and reaction to the production.

Almost full house. Very appreciative audience.

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.

2.1 Was the venue suitable for the event?

Suitable.

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

- range, quantity and clarity.

Good interpretive material. Videos related to the theme were running in the foyer.

2.3 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the Event (leaflets, posters, etc)

- range, content and when and where available. Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Please also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised. Comment on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information.

A good range of flyers etc clearly representing the production.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue

- ease of payment *NA*
- location *fine*
- external signposting *fine*
- internal directional signing *the toilets are not easy to find*
- access and provision for disabled people *OK*
- timing of event *OK*

2.5 Customer service

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

Very helpful

3. Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding (if applicable)

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 and 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, and computer programmes etc. “

Please comment on whether the above conditions of grant were met, including use and prominence of the Scottish Arts Council logo on the company's website. Conditions of grant met.

Adequately acknowledged.

Name: Angela Hogg
Date: 15 November 2003

Advisor **Scottish Arts Council Officer**

(Please tick above as appropriate)