

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

Assessment Report

Organisation/venue: Wee Stories at Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock
Title of event: Wee Witches
Type of event: Performance – for 3 year olds and families
Date of visit: 08/06/2002

1. Artistic assessment

Please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event - its vision and imagination; ability to communicate; and quality of production.

Another high quality production from Wee Stories aimed at very young audiences (minimum age of 3) - but sufficiently engaging and entrancing for older children and adults. An imaginative approach to witches with an original storyline.

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)

A simple story complicated by multiple characters, which worked well. The script used repetition and songs in a way highly suitable for the target age group.

Direction

Good use of the set/auditorium.

Standard of Performers

Excellent high energy and committed performances from Virginia Radcliffe and Vivien Graham, who worked well together.

Design

A wonderfully rich and multi-textured set that allowed the performers full rein to exercise their ingenuity. The costumes (by the same designer) worked very well.

Technical Standards

As a touring show, the production had to adapt to the space. In this context they were adequate.

Overall Production

Enjoyable and imaginative with high production standards. The production probably ran at 10 minutes too long – there was a dip in energy and correspondingly in audience attention at one point.

Appropriateness of production for the audience Very appropriate.

Approximate size of audience and reaction to the programme of work

c. 100 – (which I have since been told by theatre management was good) Good reaction, with the majority of the children concentrating for the majority of the performance. The performers demonstrated excellent audience awareness and understanding, by talking to the children as they left (and signing autographs etc.)

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.

2.2 Suitability of the venue for the event:

The orchestra pit meant that the production was distanced from the audience, which was not ideal for this production and meant that the time taken by the performers to run on and off the stage took too long.

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

range, quantity and clarity.

Posters, programmes, free handout at end with things to do connected to the performance.

2.4 Publicity/pre publicity for the event (leaflets, posters, etc.):

range, content and when and where available.

Flyers – well designed

2.5 Accessibility of the venue:

Ease of payment	Fine – once they finally answered the phone
Location	Fine
Direction	?
Access for disabled people	Unclear (though as a Council venue assume it's okay?)

Customer service:

Quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering) FOH staff dealt very well with the audience of small children and resulting trips to toilets during the show with a minimum of disruption

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