

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
SPECIALIST ADVISER ARTISTIC EVALUATION - DRAMA

Organisation/Venue: **Wee Stories**

Title of Event: **Words an' That**

Type of Event: (e.g. performance, work in progress, opens rehearsal etc)
 Schools performance

Date of Visit: **20th January 2004**

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: A strong piece of didactic storytelling/workshop for schools, introducing and re-inforcing the Scottish poetic tradition. Designed for young people (P5 in this case, Carricknowe Primary) without any weariness and heavy-handedness. A well-paced and interesting introduction to the work and life of Burns. Entertaining, informative and accurate. Well-presented, Andy Canon made good, strong connections with the children, who were engaged throughout.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.2 Clarity of Communication.

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Well presented, the story and the poetry flowed well, and integrated nicely within the surroundings of the Museum. Strong and versatile performance, with clarity of purpose. The children listened closely and followed instruction well because they were enthused by the performance, and excited by the opportunity to take part in Tam O'Shater!
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

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 <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: More personal anecdotes worked well alongside straight informational sections to add an more informal approach. The script was fluid enough to allow for working with the particularities of each class, with some ad-libbing to add humour.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.4 Direction

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

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

Rating for this section <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating: Good vocal work, clear projection: voice travelled well in the space. Interesting and versatile performance, switching between characterisations and poetry.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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: There was very little, except for the supper scene and bits of Tam O'Shater. This was integrated well to add detail and feeling, but also was humourously handled.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.7 Use of Movement or Choreography

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating: Storyteller moved well, and encouraged the children to join with certain "acting out" aspects of the poem.
Very Poor		
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: There was some effective use of props, and music, but there was no set. The Museum was used as a set, and helped to reinforce a strong feeling of Scots history.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
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 simple show, nothing failed.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

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: Simple and effective story telling and poetry using the most basic of props and effects, this piece relied heavily on the strong performance skills of Andy Canon and his enthusiasm for the content.
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent		

1.11 Was the performance appropriate for the audience?

Yes

1.12 Estimated size of audience and reaction to the production.

Full, 1 primary 7 class, plus teachers and carers

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?

Yes, used the Museum spaces well with great effect.

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

- range, quantity and clarity.

N/A

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.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue

- ease of payment **N/A**
- location **good**
- external signposting **good**
- internal directional signing **good**
- access and provision for disabled people **good**
- timing of event **good**

2.5 Customer service

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

Good

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.

N/A to the performance, but visible on the company web-site.

Name: Sally Hobson

Date: 2.2.04

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

(Please tick above as appropriate)