

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Organisation / Venue: X-Factor / the Lemon Tree, Aberdeen
Title of Event: In Your Dreams
Type of Event: Dance
Date of Visit: 1st 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.

I found *'In Your Dreams'* a strong and enjoyable theatrical experience from X-Factor. I felt it was particularly strong in terms of the over-all image and look to the work – the choreography, design/ projections, lighting and sound-score all contributed to the experience.

The theme and narrative of the work was well developed through the different elements in the piece and ensured there was something for the audience to grasp hold of easily.

The work was well produced, particularly in the direction and bringing together of the different theatrical elements.

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

- **Size of company and length of piece.**
4 dancers in a 50 minute piece without an interval.
- **Choreography, originality of work and use of space.**
In Greig's work the actual choreography of steps in only one aspect of the production, the overall theatrical experience and direction being dominant. That said, there were some beautifully developed movement passages and I found the duet between both male dancers very emotive.
- **Standard and technique of performers and power of communication**
The dancers worked well as a company and showed versatility. Christine Devaney is an exceptional performer and was delightful in the production.
- **Music (appropriateness for choreography and quality of musicians/ tape).**
The original soundscore was of high quality. Alan Greig has worked on a number of occasions with composer Tom Murray and their collaboration is a strong and distinctive element of the company's work.

- **Design (set, costumes).**
The look of this piece was exceptionally strong. The hangings, projections and different props succeeded in creating a versatile dream world of pleasures and nightmares. The use of polythene in a 'drowning' sequence was a particularly striking and haunting image.
- **Technical standards.**
The lighting and projections were very effective. Quality of sound was good. There seemed to be a little mix up in the lighting at the end which left the audience feeling a little confused but this was the first night and I am sure some hitches would be ironed out after a couple of performances.
- **Appropriateness of production for the audience**
The strong sense of narrative, identifiable theme and use of honour and text in this work made it accessible to an audience, even if you had never seen dance before.
- **Approximate size of audience and reaction**
The venue was about two-thirds full and the audience seemed appreciative of the performance.

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 Suitability of venue for the event:

The Lemon Tree isn't the greatest venue to watch dance in as the seating bank isn't steep enough to ensure clear sightlines, but the venue was really geared up for the performance.

2.2 Information / Interpretative material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays) - range, quality and clarity.

The programme was simple but included the necessary information and provided a good introduction to the work / company.

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

I was aware of the performance through posters, leaflets, mailings and press coverage. General information seemed widely available. The printed publicity included a strong, distinctive image.

2.4 Accessibility of the venue:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Ease of payment | Fine |
| ▪ Location | Fine |
| ▪ Access for disabled people | Venue has facilities to ensure access for those with disabilities |
| ▪ Timing of event | Fine |

2.5 Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. Box officer, front of house, bar and catering).

Staff at the venue were helpful and friendly.

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