



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – DANCE

Artist/Company: X Factor

Venue: Traverse Theatre

Title of Event: Lareigne & Uncanny

Type of Event: (e.g. performance, informal showing, work-in-progress, etc)
performance

Date of Visit: 22/2/05

Overall Rating (Please rate the production overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. the particular strengths and weaknesses).

Good – A very good evening's show. Uncanny was the more diverse work, using lighting and dancers personalities well. Lareigne was dynamic, but repetitive.

Name: Susan Hay

Date: 23/2/05

Specialist Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer ✓

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 an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and 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:

1-Very Poor – standard falls well below what is acceptable.

2-Poor – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.

3-Competent – routine rather than especially interesting.

4-Good – well conceived and executed

5-Excellent – conceived and executed to a high standard.

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, taking account of the following

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Vision and imagination	4	This is the first double bill that has been presented by X Factor with an invited choreographer. As a double bill, it worked well, challenging the dancers in all areas of their performance. Alan's piece <i>Uncanny</i> drew on a wealth of film and literary images and was put together in an engaging way.
Clarity of communication	4	The dancers have gelled well as a company and are developing well as performers
Quality of production – production's success in relation to stated aims i.e., in the programme or other printed material)	5	This was a very good quality production.

2. Strengths and Weakness

Assess the strengths and weakness of the event with reference to the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Choreography - originality, use of space, number and use of dancers, length of piece, etc	4	Alan's piece <i>Uncanny</i> worked well, albeit at the start of the piece, it was not clear whether there was a technical glitch as the dancers movements were very slow and the audience were a bit confused. Once the piece got going, it drew on recognisable inspiration, presented in a unique way, both funny and aesthetically pleasing. <i>Lareigne</i> – seemed to have a more limited vocabulary, but challenged the dancers physically.
Performers - technical standard, performance skills, and ability to communicate	4	Excellent performers – very strong dance and drama technique. Because of injury, a trainee dancer was included in the second work. While he coped well, he lacked the fluidity of the other dancers.
Sound – appropriateness and effect of sound or music (whole/part, live/ recorded) to the production.	4	Recorded soundtracks were used for both pieces. A diverse collection of music and speech complimented the choreography in <i>Uncanny</i> .
Design – costume, set, lighting	5	Excellent lighting. Costumes were simple but effective and lighting worked well.

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Technical standards – technical presentation of the production (e.g. lighting and sound cues, etc)	4	The show went without a flaw.
Audience – appropriateness of the production for the audience, estimate the size and reaction	5	Full house. The production was well received, with the audience giggling at the lighter parts of <i>Uncanny</i> .

2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations.

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Suitability of the venue for the event	4	Good performance area, but stairs tricky for injured and older audience members because very steep and deep.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ¹	4	Posters clearly displayed in the window and flyers available to pick up. Programmes handed out.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ²	4	Flyers distributed in good time. Traverse programme had details of the show and sent out a personalised letter to remind you of the dance show.
Accessibility of venue	4	Good access. Lift to all levels.
Ease of booking and payment	5	Staff helpful and dealt with ticket requests efficiently.
Location of venue	5	Central location, easily accessible by public transport
External signage and signposting	4	Clear signposting to the venue.
Internal directional signage	4	Reasonably clear, staff frequently asked where to go once tickets have been uplifted from box office.
Access and provision for disabled people	4	Lift to theatre levels
Timing of the event	4	8pm on Saturday – good day for attracting an audience.

¹ These include programmes, displays etc., assessing the range, quality and clarity

² Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the 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

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering)	4	Helpful and competent staff.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ³	5	Logo clearly displayed on Traverse marketing materials

³ The 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, 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, computer programmes etc.”

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