

## FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

<b>Applicant name:</b>	Visible Fictions	
<b>Application Reference number:</b>	G201001016	
<b>Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)</b>	£210,000	£214,000
<b>Officer's recommendation</b>		
<p>Summarise the key points of your assessment and draw out the strengths and weaknesses of the application taken together with any comments you have received from source evidence (portfolio of evidence/ internal / external consultation). Highlight any specific risks  <i>Note: The amount of information you provide here should be sufficient for the decision maker to reach a decision. As with all previous commentary boxes please do not exceed 250 words</i></p>		
<p>The application represents a high calibre development of work already achieved. There is a strong focus on creation of high quality work relevant to young audiences which will tour nationally and internationally. The company's track record for quality and output adds weight to their potential for successful delivery of the proposed programme.</p> <p>VF has demonstrated a strong integrity in creating excellent artistic opportunities for young people (some on the margins) to engage with the company's work and have their own creative journey within a positive artistic environment. The proposal therefore fits the Drama Department priority for Children/Young people to a high degree,</p> <p>VF prioritises partnership working and it is clear that they are regarded within the sector as a leading organisation in terms of vision and practice. They also prioritise audience development, demonstrated through their well considered approach and audience projections (which the lead officer regards as realistic). The strategy outlined describes a viable, inspiring approach to engaging with young people.</p> <p>The application demonstrates good business/financial practice and experience in delivering the aims and objectives outlined.</p> <p>The increase requested in 09/10 represents £73, 299 (from £133,701 in 07/08). As outlined VF has expanded its structure through the Advancement process which has enabled the company to have a strong education/outreach strand to complement its programme of touring work. Plans outline that extensive development (as well as positive developments in Scotland wide/international touring and collaborations). The range and numbers of audiences have also increased. The lead officer would view the additional request as a good investment in work which fits the flexible criteria to a high degree.</p>		
<b>Officer's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>HIGH</b>
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 31 January 2008 Revised: 20 March 2008
Print name:	Angela Hogg	

## Stage 2: Heads of Departments prioritise applications with advice from Specialist Advisors

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the application identified by the Specialist Advisors? Please summarise their comments below. What were their ratings of the importance of the application in being supported?

### Comments:

Attendees:

David Taylor, Co-Director of Arts

Specialist Advisors: Stewart Ennis, Tim Licata, David Leddy, Alex Patience, Sandy Maxwell, Stephen Slater, Stephen Stenning and Laura Tyrrell

The Panel identified the following strengths and weaknesses of: Visible Fictions

This was considered an excellent application with a clear vision. Keeping shows in repertoire was welcome. There appeared to be a good spread of work proposed, addressing equalities, including groups such as young people, the elderly, young parents etc.

The involvement of young people in planning, including the youth board was also considered a positive aspect of the application.

Specialist Advisors overall rating: High

2. Summarise the role of the organisation within the infrastructure of the sector. Assess to what extent the organisation's vision will contribute to the department's and to Scottish Arts Council's aims: (to fulfil artists' potential, to increase participation, to place creativity at the heart of learning)

### Comments:

Visible Fictions (VF) is an international, award winning touring theatre company based in Glasgow. Their mission is to create and produce a dynamic, high quality and accessible age-inclusive theatre arts programme. Their work is often multi-media and sometimes includes pre recorded/live film and puppetry. VF develops their work over long periods to provide opportunities for experimentation and in depth testing on target audiences. The company is involved in a joint audience development project with other key children's companies (Young Audiences Scotland). They have co-produced with BBC Scotland Radio 4, Scottish Touring Theatres Consortium, NToS and internationally with the Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company. VF's works with Promote YT to deliver training, workshops and youth theatre as part of the annual National Youth Theatre Festival

#### 1. *Fit with FXO criteria:*

##### 1.1 *Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists*

.VF plays a leading role within the Scottish theatre sector. The company also provides opportunities for artists to have their work seen overseas- notably in North America. The company has won awards internationally. The company has very high artistic leadership credentials.

##### 1.2 *Improving your engagement with the public*

The applicant's main target audience is teenagers, for which they have produced relevant and interesting work, attracting young people who may not normally attend theatre. The applicant is committed to improving engagement with the public. Attendances strong at 20,000 pa.

##### 1.3 *Good practice in the governance and management*

The company is well managed and governance arrangements are appropriate.

##### 1.4 *Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access*

Specific projects planned mention the targeting of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds,

young people from socially/economically disadvantaged communities, disabled young people, young people in the care system and young people with mental health problems. This criterion is met. Over the last 2 years the company has focussed a great deal of attention on work with marginalised young people (in collaboration with relevant organisations) for which they won a Highly Commended at the Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival.

*1.5 Raising other income at least 25% - Met*

*2. Fit with Departmental priorities*

Meets priority of creating work for children to a high degree.

*3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council Aims*

A very strong fit with increasing participation and also a good fit with helping artists to fulfil their potential. Also a fit with putting creativity at the heart of learning as some of the work will take place in schools.

**3.** Based on the lead officer's assessment and the subsequent meeting with Specialist advisors, please rate the application (High, medium, low) summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks)

**Comments**

*1.1 Application rating*

The company has a strong artistic record which is acknowledged in the officer's assessment and in the SA comments. Both the officer and the Specialist Advisors rate the application as high. I concur on the basis of the strengths and weaknesses below.

*1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating As 1.1*

*1.3 Strengths of application*

Strong artistic leadership and track record and also high levels of engagement with the public with a focus on children and young people.

*1.4 Weaknesses of applications*

No significant weaknesses

*1.5 Specific risks associated with the application*

No significant risks

*1.6 Development areas identified*

No significant development areas.

*1.7 Recommended level of support*

Amount recommended £ 175,000 pa

**4.** Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

**Comments:**

There is a lack of detail in the application form- with "throughout Scotland "identified. On past track record the geographic spread of touring has been good.

<b>Head of Department's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>HIGH</b>
Head of Department's signature:		Date: 15 Feb 2008 Revised: 26 March 2008
Print name:	David Taylor	

<b>Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)</b>		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
<b>Comments:</b> Strong overall fit with FXO criteria. The amount reflects the competitive funding context. Support of £170,000 annually is proposed.		
<b>Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation</b>		High
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

<b>Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)</b>		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Support of £170,000 annually is proposed.		
<b>Directors recommendations to Joint Board</b>		High
Acting Chief Executive signature:	Jim Tough	Date: 10 April 2008

<b>Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions</b>		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
<b>Joint Board Final Decision</b>		<b>APPROVE</b>
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£170,000

**End of Assessment**