

Wellcome Collection Evaluation

Quarter 2: Oct - Dec 2007

Something Somatic

Qualitative feedback from audience completing online questionnaire after Something Somatic on 29 November and 1 & 2 December 2007.

30 responses received from 67 questionnaires sent out of 148 people that attended the event.

11 Something somatic

11.1 Q2 What did you like about the event?

Venue

The venue was very welcoming, comfortable and stimulating (especially having the exhibition outside the theatre to walk in to after the show and discussion).

Was a good venue

Good to see the piece in the Wellcome building- made me think laterally.

Subject matter

Not only was it a good play addressing real issues but also I enjoyed the discussion afterwards.

The subject matter was compelling and well handled.

A thought-provoking subject. A good way of getting a difficult subject across

Very thought provoking.

It was very thought provoking--I loved the way it blended medicine and art. It was very emotional.

It gave an insight into the interaction between constant emotional stress and physical illness.

Interesting subject matter and a different way of raising awareness than normal museum display.

Play – acting, writing, production etc

The performances given by the two actors were excellent

The storyline was amazing! Loved the twist at the end! I act myself and I think that the actors did an amazing job and congrats to the director, writer etc.

The performances were excellent. The production was seamless. The space was intimate and allowed for maximum engagement in the performance. The play stuck in my mind for days after!

The acting was excellent, portraying a very moving story.

The play itself, the actors were brilliant, and the way you used the space was the best possible. I found it really good

Such a small audience made it very personal. I enjoyed the play and thought the acting was brilliant.

Excellent actors, set design clever and the subject was very contemporary.

It was the best play I have seen this year - and I have seen a few.

Presentation and acting were both excellent.

That it was intimate and immediate - the acting was great, the play was absorbing, the set was inventive, the performance space was small but perfectly formed.

The production values were good. I really liked the set.

The set was very cleverly designed and the acting professional.

Fantastic writing and superb performance.

I thought the acting was of a very high standard and the material of the play made strong impression.

Excellent script and superb acting. It was obvious that everyone involved had thought deeply about the issues in question and the best way to portray them.

Very well acted and presented.

Well acted, cleverly written

The script and acting were superb. The message was conveyed in a subtle but clear manner.

Beautifully acted

The performances. The story. And the use of space.

As someone who works in the theatre industry, I was aware of the project and I had actually been fortunate to speak to Rebecca Gould about the project as my friend had the lead female role, and I knew someone else who had been recalled during the initial auditions. I was therefore keen to see the piece when finished and what I liked about it most of all is that it was brave. It was dealing with subject matter that is often avoided and it was dealt with in a mature and interesting way. It never felt preachy or clichéd, and I think the piece as a whole could develop still further into a very important work.

Other

It was a real privilege to have the medical expert as well as the director and writer there to discuss the show with afterwards

Loved the extra touch of the talk after It was a very interesting way of engaging the audience in its subject matter.

Good and interesting.

It was very intimate and ruffled my thoughts. Took me a while to realise that the man represented me - so I was interestingly confused.

I wear 2 hearing aids but had no problems with hearing the play, which was good.

The thought-provoking nature of the event.

Informative and entertaining

Very different, very realistic, very inspiring

11.2 Q3 What do you think could be improved

I didn't understand the need for nudity, it seemed tokenistic

I suppose, given that it is the Wellcome foundation who have provided the funding and that it is an arts/science initiative it might have been interesting to also have a representative from the Wellcome foundation there as part of the discussion to clarify Wellcome's interest and investment in this kind of project and to open out thinking in terms of medicine and the humanities.

I don't think you could improve! It was fab!

Not a lot

Would the welcome trust consider installing a theatre with a screening facility. It felt slightly as if we were in a lecture theatre, and that was a shame as the piece was so careful not to 'lecture' but to provoke thought. Maybe it should be better to find another way of changing the scenes. But on the other hand, I didn't mind at all

Nothing. It was a 10/10

N/a

Put on such presentations in the larger lecture theatre, or other larger facility (?) In order to be able to admit a larger audience. I mention this not just in regard to 'something somatic', which did have part of the audience 'standing in the aisles', but one earlier event for which I was unable to get tickets on the very first day (fully booked) on which I knew of that event.

Can't think of anything.

The script wasn't that interesting and the scientific content seemed quite minimal.

I did find the seats to be a little narrow and felt a bit cramped.

I was there for the signed performance in a venue this intimate I found that distracting.

Perhaps an opportunity for discussion or questions?

I love children, but please no babies!

Only perhaps a few more seats so more people can attend?

The event could be advertised in time out. I just happened upon it when I was attending the sleeping and dreaming exhibition and was fortunate that a seat was available.

I was a bit chilly, but that might just be me!

I felt that it was very accomplished, however there were a few moments when - for me personally - I felt that the overall style of the piece was lost to easy theatrical devices. Some of the language for example seemed to be overly conversational/modernised, probably in an attempt to reflect the characters, but I felt it was one of the few moments when the writing fell into a trap of being untruthful.

11.3 Q8 why are you not very likely to recommend?

Quality isn't quite consistent enough. And it's not necessarily connected to the collection.