

Guide to In Worlds Unknown



In Worlds Unknown is choreographed by Seke Chimutengwende with 5 Candoco Dancers.

Seke collaborated with:

Eleanor Penny - Writing Director

Jamie McCarthy - Composer

Marty Langthorne - Lighting Design

Shanti Freed - Costume Design

PJ Davy - Captions

Themes:

In Worlds Unknown explores different ways individual people can experience a collective sense of lostness.

The work is playful, it is almost as if the dancers are playing a game at a party and each dancer is pretending to be lost in their own world.

In Worlds Unknown has many layers; the text, choreography, sound and lighting. All of these elements are equal in their intention.

Starting Points:

At the start of the creative process Eleanor guided the dancers through creative writing tasks. This led to each dancer writing a description of an environment they imagined being lost in, these were:

- A shipwreck
- A destroyed city
- A forest
- The arctic
- The desert

How did the work come into being?



These are the questions Eleanor used to guide the dancers when writing:

- You are lost, explore your environment, what do you see?
- How does the environment act and behave, what is it like?
- How do you find food and water resources?
- How does your physical body change and adapt?
- What do you do to pass the time?
- What do the surroundings tell you? If they could speak, what would they say?
- You decide to stay / you find your way home / you are rescued

Eleanor and Seke guided the dancers to create a shared language through repeated words and shared imagery. This connected their individual texts, allowing the dancers to exist together within different environments.

Improvisation scores:

Seke used instructions to start improvisations which were filmed, he selected sections of the videos which the dancers then learnt.

Nearly all of the movement on stage is set.

Improvisation Instructions:



- Move without pausing; moving and pausing all together
- Move continuously without repetition
- Telepathy solos
- Shadowing and embellishing another's movement
- Disrupt the space
- Dancing or not dancing? The blurry line between dancing and the everyday pedestrian action

Script and Movement:



Eleanor, Seke and the dancers ordered the texts which created a script exploring the 5 different environments.

The script and choreography were brought together looking at relationships and rhythms.

Even though the dancers are in different worlds they look for meeting points, connections and overlaps that connect their individual experiences.

When performing, the dancers have to imagine their individual environments and show these through the choreography, which is supported by their spoken or signed (using British Sign Language BSL) script.

Captioning:



All of the text is captioned. The text does not show who is saying which lines.

You do not need to follow the text throughout the performance.

There are multiple things to focus on throughout the performance; from the movement to lighting, from captions to sound!

Soundscore:

Jamie and Seke talked about the themes and Jamie responded to this with sound. Jamie took part in the writing workshops and from this started to explore 4 of these worlds.

Jamie was in the room in rehearsals and responded to the movement and dialogue with sound. This created an atmosphere that responded to the dancers. This gave them the opportunity to explore how they want to perform their movement and text in response to the soundscore.

The sound is full and cinematic and gives the piece a serious tone. The sound does not always follow the text. For example, there are water sounds but this does not match what is happening in the text.

Lighting:



The lighting creates an atmosphere which uses elements of the 5 different environments.

The lighting does not always follow what the text is showing.

Costume:



Each dancer wears a unique, slightly formal costume, as if they have been at a party. The unifying piece of attire is a coloured sash they each wear wrapped around their shoulder and waist.

The sashes differ in colour: blue, green, yellow, white and red. These colours refer to the different worlds the dancers are in.

In Worlds Unknown:



In Worlds Unknown begins with 5 dancers entering the theatre space as if it is a new space to them. They decide where to place themselves in the space.

As if by surprise they are propelled across the space together to a corner. The dancers scatter widely and look to see where they are.

1 person begins to speak as they all start to move together.



The dancers use voice and BSL continuously throughout the piece, They dance in pairs, groups and solos.

Each performer describes the environment they encounter; they share details, colours, smells, weather conditions and sounds, memories, feelings.