**Candoco Dance Company**

***soft shell* by Annie Hanauer & *In Worlds Unknown* by Seke Chimutengwende**

**Performed by**

Ben Ash (*In Worlds Unknown* only)

Ihsaan de Banya

Anna Seymour

Markéta Stránská

Vanessa Abreu\*

*\*Guest Artist*

PLEASE CONFIRM LIST OF PERFORMERS WITH CANDOCO BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC

***soft shell* by Annie Hanauer**

In *soft shell*, the dancers slip in and out of known forms, casually shape-shifting as they embody different ways of being that upend the reading of each person. Movement slides between artifice and essence, with a playful ambiguity that suggests the people before us could be any one of the images they present, all of them, or none.

A work that plays with seeing and being seen, asks what we show and what we keep hidden, and where each of us might break the rules by being who we are.

*soft shell* highlights the power of the performer to shape how we perceive them, and looks at how dancing could create space for agency, support, joy, and pleasure; a place where lesser-known parts of us might come to light.

soft shell is a glance at something which lies beneath the surface, a celebration of the unseen elements in all of us.

**Credits** PLEASE CONFIRM CREDITS WITH CANDOCO BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC

**Choreography:** Annie Hanauer

**Music by:** Fran Lobo

**Dramaturg:** Nicola Conibere

**Design:** Shanti Freed

**Lighting Designer:** PJ Davy

**Executive Producer:** Nicky Napier

**Artistic Director:** Charlotte Darbyshire

**Production Manager:** Phil Webb

**Senior Producer:** Georgia Kersh

**Rehearsal Director:** Sophie Arstall

**Assistant Producer:** Georgia Kingsman

**Supported by:** This piece is supported by Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

**Running Time:** TBC

***In Worlds Unknown* by Seke Chimutengwende**

A group of people are lost on an island. Or is it a desert, a forest, an abandoned city? It keeps shifting. They are trying to find a way to cooperate with each other and communicate with the outside world. They’re also trying to kill time as they wait. Will they find a way out? Will they be rescued? Or will they perish?

In Worlds Unknown explores themes of lostness, uncertainty, navigation and survival and the radically different ways individual people experience a collective sense of lostness.

Combining intricate choreography with poetry, written and performed by the dancers. Amidst a dense sea of choreography, the dancers deliver a

collective poem evoking scenes of lostness, navigation and survival.

**Credits** PLEASE CONFIRM CREDITS WITH CANDOCO BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC

**Choreography:** Seke Chimutengwende

**Writing Direction:** Eleanor Penny with text written by the Candoco dancers

**Music:** Jamie McCarthy

**Lighting Design:** Marty Langthorn

**Costume Design:** Shanti Freed

**Deaf Consultants:** Sue MacLaine and Duffy

**Creative Captions:** PJ Davy

**Executive Producer:** Nicky Napier

**Artistic Director:** Charlotte Darbyshire

**Production Manager:** Phil Webb

**Senior Producer:** Georgia Kersh

**Rehearsal Director:** Sophie Arstall

**Assistant Producer:** Georgia Kingsman

**Supported by:** Co-commissioned by Warwick Arts Centre with support from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

**Running Time:** TBC

**Rehearsal Images**

*Into Worlds Unknown* by Seke Chimutengwende: <https://we.tl/t-HOINWpMkeB>

New work by Annie Hanauer: <https://we.tl/t-yDCyKB2zpP>

**Biographies**

**Annie Hanauer**

Annie Hanauer is an independent dance artist based between London and France, originally from the USA. She works internationally and has performed, choreographed, toured, and taught extensively for over a decade. She sees her work as facilitating people meeting, whether as a performer meeting an audience, directing a group of dancers through a choreographic process, or working with students in a learning environment. Annie is fascinated by human bodies in movement, our bodies' connection to the wider world and how they are read socially, what they carry, their concreteness, their depth, and infinite potential through movement. She believes in our bodies’ capacity to connect empathetically, and their power to express that which is implied, felt, and beyond language. She is interested in the experiences of people who have been 'othered', stemming from her own lived experience as a disabled woman, and wants to dismantle constructed ideas of a normative dancing body.

Her choreographic work has involved developing methodology for group performance improvisation, researching care-giving, motherhood & disability, and often brings disabled and non-disabled artists together. She is currently creating a new evening-length work around utopia & collective imagination, from a disability perspective. She wants to support and share the wisdom, creativity, bespoke movement techniques and support structures, and unique perspectives she continues to witness within the community of disabled artists she meets and works with. She is interested in creating supportive working environments and pathways into the professional world for emerging disabled artists.

Annie's choreographic work has been supported by Arts Council England (UK), Siobhan Davies Dance (UK), CCN2 Grenoble (FR), Candoco Dance Company (UK), The Place (UK), Teatro Danzabile (CH), and LAC Lugano (CH). She is a member of the UK’s Equity Dance Committee.

Annie currently performs around the world with long-time collaborator Rachid Ouramdane, Chaillot (France), with the Paris Chamber Orchestra (France), and is creating new works with Compagnie For Want of a Better (France) and with Nic Conibere / Normal Conditions (UK). She regularly facilitates classes and workshops nationally & internationally. Annie is one-third of AnnieVickySarah (AVS), a collective of 3 female independent artists interested in developing & sharing accessible creative practices, launched in 2017.

As a freelancer she has performed with Emanuel Gat Dance (SUNNY), Lea Anderson (Getting Dressed), Wendy Houstoun (Stupid Women), Lucy Suggate (Spirit Compass), Boris Charmatz (Levée des Conflits), created a portrait for Jonathan Burrows, Matteo Fargion & Hugo Glendinning's 52 Portraits, and collaborated on research & creative projects with many independent artists. She danced with Candoco Dance Company from 2008-2014, where she performed works by Trisha Brown, Nigel Chanok, Sarah Michelson, Hofesh Shechter, Thomas Hauert, in a solo by Lea Anderson, Rachid Ouramdane, Emanuel Gat, Wendy Houstoun, Marc Brew, Claire Cunningham, Rafael Bonachela, and in the Olympic handover ceremony in Beijing and the Paralympic closing ceremony in London.

**Seke Chimutengwende**

Seke Chimutengwende is a choreographer, performer, movement director and teacher.

His recent choreographies include Black Holes, a collaboration with Alexandrina Hemsley, (British Council’s Edinburgh Showcase 2019), the solo Plastic Soul (The Yard Theatre 2019), and Detective Work, a duet with Stephanie McMann (commissioned by NEUROLIVE 2021). Seke is currently making It begins in darkness, which will premiere in September 2022, a group choreography looking at ghosts and haunted houses as metaphors for how histories of slavery and colonialism haunt the present. He will also be making a new group work for Candoco Dance Company in 2022.

Seke has performed for numerous dance companies including DV8 Physical Theatre and Lost Dog. He is currently working as a performer with Forced Entertainment and Sue MacLaine Company.

Seke has also been practicing completely improvised performance, using movement and text, since 2006. He has performed over 70 solo improvisations internationally and has performed ensemble improvisation with numerous dancers, actors and musicians. He is currently exploring long solo improvisation performances of 50 to 60 minutes.

Seke has also worked as a movement director for theatre productions at The Yard Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre and The Gate Theatre.

Seke regularly teaches improvisation at The Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, London Contemporary Dance School, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and Goldsmiths University, among others. Seke studied dance at Lewisham College 1999 - 2001 and London Contemporary Dance School 2001 – 2004 and went on to train extensively in improvisation with a variety of practitioners and with Andrew Morrish in particular.

**Access**

Further information on access provision for this work will be provided at a later date.

**About Candoco Dance Company:**Candoco is a world-leading professional dance company. Bridging the mainstream and the experimental, our bold approach and powerful collaborations create distinctive performances and far-reaching learning experiences. We celebrate different ways of seeing, of being and of making art, putting us at the forefront of conversation around dance and disability and continually expanding perceptions of #whatdancecanbe.

*“It’s always great to witness the buzz that choreographers get from working with Candoco. Throughout the company’s 27-year history there’s rarely been a work in which its mix of disabled and non-disabled dancers has felt like a limitation.”* – The Guardian (*Face In* and *Let’s Talk About Dis* at Sadler’s Wells, 2018)

Instagram @candocodancecompany

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[www.candoco.co.uk](http://www.candoco.co.uk)

#WhatDanceCanBe

**Funders:**

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**Candoco logos:**

<https://we.tl/t-8okXxEqH83>