

GENERAL FACTS



Choreographer: Wayne McGregor

Music: Max Richter

Set: Julian Opie

Costume: Moritz Junge

Lighting: Lucy Carter

Sound design: Chris Ekers

Performed by: The Royal Ballet

Dancers: 12 + extras for the crowd [Section 7]

Created :2008

Stimulus:

1. *Infra* : The Latin phrase for ‘ below’
2. Life below the surface/skin of a city
3. T.S. Eliot’s poem ‘The Waste Land’

Choreographic Intention:

- A. Seeing below the surface. eg. beneath the facade of a person to their true emotional self
- B. Different kinds of human relationships
- C. The 2005 London Bombings

Choreographic Approach:

- Taught material
- Collaboration
- Task setting

STIMULUS

1. *Infra* : The Latin phrase for ‘ below’

Seeing below the surface

‘The surface’ or ‘the city’ has been created in a number of ways in *Infra*. It has been created as a disconnected monochrome (black and white) world where no-one can see the real lives of people and therefore relates to the stimulus ‘*Infra*’ as Latin for ‘below’ and the choreographic intention of looking beneath the surface to our real self.

2. Life below the surface/skin of a city

What goes on ‘behind closed doors’ The aspects of people’s lives that are hidden when living in a large city.

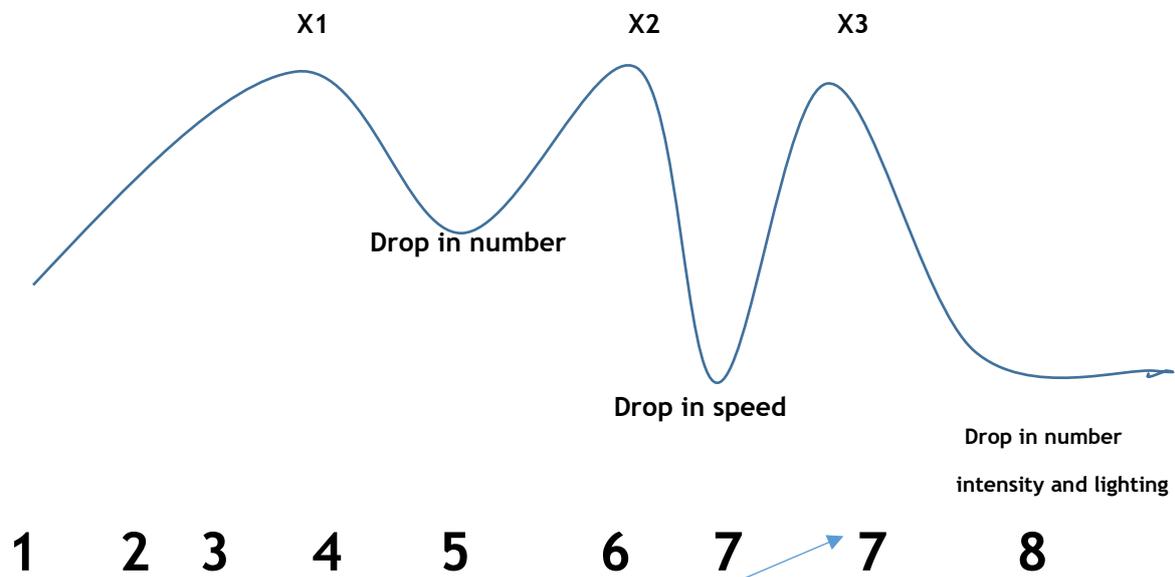
3. The Waste Land

T.S Eliot’s poem The Waste Land was one of the stimuli for *Infra*. It is about a depressed city, (London) left destroyed after the war. The people trying to get on with their lives and ends in hope of a better future.

Excerpt from The Waste Land:

Under the brown fog of a winter dawn,
A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many,
I had not thought death had undone so many.
Sighs, short and infrequent, were exhaled,
And each man fixed his eyes before his feet

STRUCTURE



X1 Climax: a burst of movement and sound

- Increase in number
- Fast complex movement structure
- Busy movement and aural setting

X2 Climax: a burst of movement and sound

- Increase in number
- Fast complex movement structure
- Busy movement and aural setting
- Contrast either side

X3 Highlight

- Slow simple walking
- Aural setting slows
- Lighting intensity reduces
BUT increase in number and emotion

LIGHTING

The lighting for *Infra* helps to create the subterranean world that *Infra* implies. Whilst everything 'above the surface' remains black and white, the world below tells a different story.

Types of lighting:

Wash



Sidelight



Spotlight



Also used



LIGHTING

Making links

Stimulus: below the surface of a city

- Lighting shapes on the floor - as if they have been thrown from above.

Stimulus: The London bombings

- Square shapes could represent tube carriages with people trapped inside.

Stimulus: The Waste Land

- Blurred edges suggest fog. “Under the brown fog of a winter dawn”

Choreographic intent: Different human relationships below the surface of things.

- Colours suggest different relationships e.g. green for jealousy, argument, Blue for grief.

Highlight dancers

- Follow spotlight in final section.

Structure

- Different lighting for each section.

Aural setting

- Intensity and colour often matches aural setting. E.g. low intensity blue with soft piano.

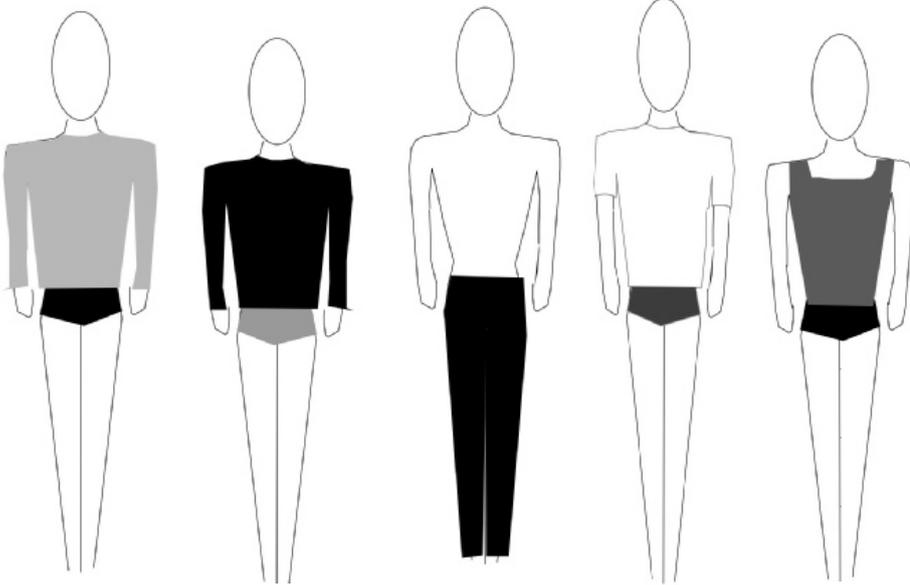
Space

- Rectangles restrict dancers' space.



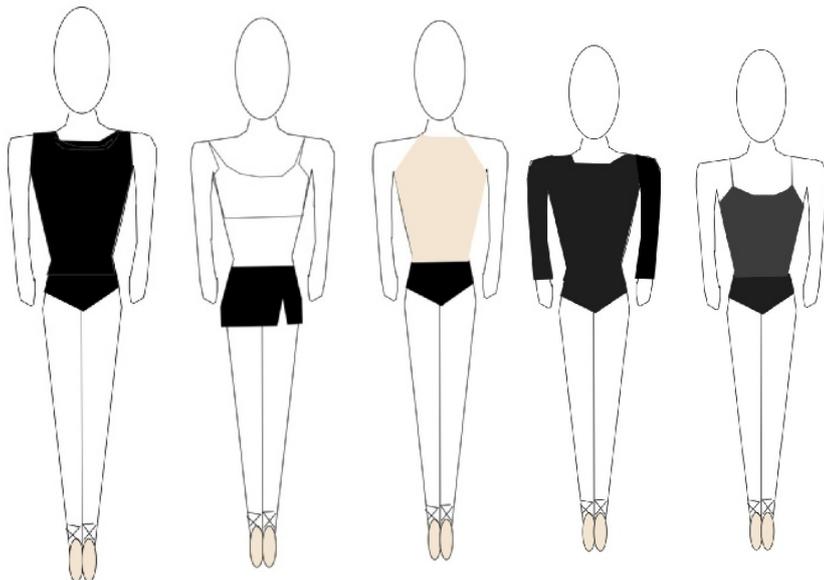
COSTUME

Designed by Moritz Junge



MEN

- Black
- Grey
- White
- Shorts
- Sweatshirts
- T shirts
- Trousers
- Vests
- Lycra
- Ballet shoes



WOMEN

- Tight
- Figure-hugging
- Gender-specific
- Skirt
- Flesh
- Shorts
- Crop top
- Strappy
- Necklines
- Pointe shoes

COSTUME

Making links

Stimulus: below the surface of a city

- Black and grey suggest darkness of underground.

Stimulus: The Waste Land

- Colours are oppressive and gloomy like the poem.

Choreographic intent: Different human relationships below the surface of things.

- Each dancer wears an individual design showing difference in people. Costumes are personal wear rather than outdoor wear - shows inner personal life of people.

Complements the Set

- Monochrome (Black and white) colours of costume match monochrome set.

Genre/style

- Ballet shoes support contemporary ballet genre

Era

- Tight revealing costumes point to modern day.

Gender

- Shoes and two different costumes are gender specific - the rest more gender neutral.



SET

Black box



A grey dance floor, black tabs and black backcloth. An LED screen is seen high up on the backcloth, showing a variety of LED people in black and white walking to and fro. The front curtain is black, completing the monochrome effect.

- The walking figures carry briefcases at times, perhaps indicating office workers.
- The number of figures echoes the number of dancers on stage, beginning with one and building until a large crowd of figures appears in Section 7.
- The final section has no figures at all.

"The dancers below, in the subway, if you will, provide a contrast between bland routine and the horror of crisis, between clinical video and flesh and blood and between two disparate, competing visual worlds."

SET

Making links

Stimulus: below the surface of a city

- Blackness suggests underground, dancers are physically below LED figures. LED figures could be people walking in the street above.

Stimulus: The London bombings

- The underground location could be the London underground.

Stimulus: The Waste Land

- Empty and LED figures could be the crowds walking over London Bridge. “A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many”

Choreographic intent: Different human relationships below the surface of things.

- The LED figures are clearly individuals showing differences. They show no emotion, contrasted with the dancers. Dancers therefore show real feelings underneath the façade of city life.

Lighting

- Empty black box enables lighting shapes to be clearly seen on the floor.

Structure

- The number of LED figures builds and then falls.

Era

- Use of technology suggests 21st century era

Climax

- The number of LED figures builds to a climax and then falls away again.

AURAL SETTING(MUSIC/SOUND)

Description:

1. Found sound: Train whistle, radio static, muffled speech, rumbling, morse code beeps.
2. Violin and strings
3. Piano

Making links

Stimulus: below the surface of a city

- Muffled speech possibly coming from above ground or could be white noise of a busy city. Radio static suggests a signal has been lost.

Stimulus: The London bombings

- Train whistles, muffled speech could be a busy platform.
- Soft piano could suggest grief after the tragedy.
- Morse code beeps could be a distress signal.

Choreographic intent: Different human relationships below the surface of things.

- Music mirrors emotions within relationships e.g. anxious for green duet, soft piano suggests raw emotion or grief.

Location

- Soundscape suggests underground location at the start.

Set

- Muffled speech potentially coming from the LED people above on the screen.

Lighting

- Close relationship e.g. soft piano with low intensity blue lighting for trio.

Structure

- Different music for each section.

Gender

- Male solo uses masculine powerful rumbling, mechanical sounds.