
Motionhouse

WINNER OF THE AUDIENCE PRIZE AT MIRAMIRO IN GHENT, JULY 2009

Underground

Life going down the tube

Underground is a Motionhouse outdoor piece for performance in the public arena.

Performed by four dancers within a rocking tubular structure, **Underground** uses stunningly physical dance, poignant imagery and surprising aerial encounters to explore the new reality of train travel: the compressed intimacy of a crowded carriage; the crush of personal space; the studied ignoring of our fellow humans and the tight fear of a dangerous stranger in the current climate of suspicion.

Travellers are thrown together in an unlikely alliance as graffiti artists paint their love in motion. Suspended at odd angles and riding the rhythm of the train, four characters are constantly drawn together then torn apart.

Energetic and thought provoking, **Underground** is attention grabbing, edge of your seat, in-your-face dancing.

"Motionhouse again demonstrates that contemporary dance can find a large new audience without compromising artistic integrity but with a huge dose of choreographic flair, acrobatic flourish, humour, empathy and real life relevance."
Donna Close, Brighton Festival

"Of all the participating artists Motionhouse's innovative performance will contribute the most to the further development of the arts in public spaces."
The official jury of MiraMirO



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***Underground* is a Motionhouse street festival piece**

Our festival pieces are attention grabbing and highly physical dance performances, created to be seen in the public arena rather than in the confines of a theatre. Each festival piece has its own unique set and props, clear characters, theatrical narrative and dynamic athleticism.

Underground has been performed at festivals across Europe including: Brighton Festival, Watch This Space! at the National Theatre in London, Fierce Festival in Birmingham, Manchester Xtrax, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, MiraMirO in Ghent Belgium, Straattheaterfestival BuitenGewoon in Holland and Fira Tàrrrega in Spain.

"Motionhouse are breaking new ground – they have an amazing grasp of the challenges and rewards of outdoor work and have demonstrated great sophistication in their work across different scales: from intimacy to spectacle."

Bradley Hemmings, Artistic Director Greenwich + Docklands Festivals

Audience comments on Underground:

"Amazing to see quality dance in a street context. Really fantastic piece, not to mention breathtaking dancers! Audience were totally gripped and engaged."

"Emotive, superbly choreographed, head tingling & totally mesmerising."

"Elegance and anarchy rolled into one powerful, strong bodied, fully alive, uplifting performance."

Technical information

The ***Underground*** set is a tubular structure that requires a minimum performance space – see below for the dimensions. It is designed to be performed outdoors in public spaces such as town squares, parks and gardens etc – please take in to consideration all the information below when considering where to site your ***Underground*** performance.

- ***Underground*** is performed by four dancers in a freestanding purpose built structure – it has been designed and choreographed to be performed on any surface that is firm, level and dry. It cannot be performed on grass
- ***Underground*** requires a performance area of 9m x 10m with a height clearance of 4m
- The set is 3m long x 1.8m wide x 2.1m high
- Aerosol Paint - a small amount of spray paint is used in each performance

Other requirements

- We require one 13amp outlet to power our sound system
- We tour one sound system a HK Lucas 1000 system with built in Amplifiers
Specification of this system is:
 - Sub speaker 600W RMS with built in Amplifiers
 - 2 x 150W RMS mid/high range speakers
 - We tour a Minidisk and a CD Player
 - All equipment is checked for electrical safety see appendix

- Please also remember that you will have to leave room around the set for audience members
- Under no circumstances can Underground be performed in wet weather
- **Underground** requires a firm, level, even and dry surface; it cannot be performed on grass
- We don't require any technical support during the performance itself
- You will need to provide stewards during the performances
- You will also need personnel to supervise the set between performances



Load in/get-out

- The set is toured in a Mercedes Sprinter van (length 7 metres) which needs to be parked as close to the performance area as possible to unload and reload
- Extra people to help with unloading are always welcome
- The performance space must be at ground level unless a very large lift is available
- Unload time is about 25 minutes, assuming we can get our vehicle close to the performance area
- Set build takes about 45 minutes with 4 dancers
- The dancers will require at least 40 minutes to warm up before the first performance (this doesn't have to be on the set)
- Each performance lasts approx 25 minutes
- The strike and reload takes approx one hour

You must contact us as a matter of urgency if any of these requirements are likely to cause problems.

Fees and Costs

Underground can be performed up to three times in one location on any performance day.

For fees and other costs please contact:

Jo Valentine, Programme Manager

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tel: + 44 (0)1926 887052

For further information visit our website [**www.motionhouse.co.uk**](http://www.motionhouse.co.uk)

"The show was one of the main hits of the festival."

Director, Spraoi Festival, Ireland



Underground was commissioned by Fierce Festival, Birmingham Hippodrome and Without Walls.