THE SHADOW

A dark and psychological thriller told through dance and movement.
Manchester dance company **Company Chameleon** uses an engaging and athletic movement vocabulary to produce inspiring & original dance theatre which is relevant to a broad audience.

Following their highly successful productions of **Beauty Of The Beast** and **Witness**, **Company Chameleon** brings its distinctive modern take on human issues into fresh territory with a new full-length production **touring in autumn 2020, The Shadow:**

**Tomorrow isn’t coming.**

*As this knowledge bites, unpredictability grips the air and rationality disappears. Social conventions, conformity and the rules by which we live are stripped away.*

*Six characters and their shadow counterparts are swept into different stories and places, revealing inner worlds, hidden personalities, desires and motivations. The unevolved, primitive, inferior and awkward parts step into the light.*

In his first full-length work since **Beauty of The Beast**, choreographer/co-Artistic Director Anthony Missen, uses an end of the world hypothesis and Carl Jung’s model of the psyche to delve into the theme of unconscious desires and our darker selves. The result is a gripping piece of dance theatre that questions the identity of our personal shadows and those of our era.
BOOKING DETAILS

Touring Autumn 2020

Performers on stage 12 (6 dancers from Company Chameleon + 6 local students/recent graduates)

Number on the road 8

Running time 70 minutes (tbc); no interval

Get in Get in day before

Performing Area 10m x 10m metres

Minimum technical requirements sprung or semi sprung floor with black lino

Black backdrop

Good quality sound system with CD player,

Lighting suitable for dance

Dressing rooms and showers

(full tech. spec. available)

Performance fee £2500 including travel and accommodation (UK only)

Professional development element Participants are third year students and recent graduates selected by Chameleon at audition

£2000 fee including travel and accommodation

3 days + performance day full time and ideally consecutive days (see following pages for more information).

Additional wraparound Workshops provide a unique insight into the Company’s work, with sessions closely linked to repertoire. Participants learn original movement vocabulary from The Shadow, and explore some of the choreographic processes used in the production’s creation. 2 hour workshop: £150; half day: £200; full day £375 (accommodation and travel costs may be added depending on schedule)

Initial research ideas (without full cast) https://vimeo.com/292955266 Password: illusion

Later research (with “shadows”) https://vimeo.com/317279799 password: shadowshort

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Professional Development Element

The Shadow
Performance and Professional Development Programme

To accompany the main cast of Chameleon dancers, 6 local artists or graduating students are invited to join them on stage in each venue.

The selected dancers will be taken through a 3-day process to prepare them prior to performance. This will involve:

**Training**
A 60-90-minute class will be given each morning to familiarise dancers with the physical language and techniques Chameleon work with. Classes will be to a professional level, and will involve conditioning, inversion, floor work, and movement sequences that explore Chameleon's particular and unique style.

**Insights**
Processes developed for the creation of this work will be shared and explored. This will feed the dancers own creative development and provide a number of ideas and approaches to devising which can be taken into their own practice.
The group will explore Chameleon’s methods for working with a theme, and how, after a process of research, the company finds the ingredients, games, tasks and tools to take into the studio to begin creating physical language.
The will work through improvisations and tasks used to generate material. The latter serves also to deepen the understanding of the root of the work for the dancers to embody the role they will play in the production from a place of knowledge.
Learning
The roles the invited dancers play will have been previously mapped out. These will be taught- in terms of time, space, formation, relationships to the other characters within scenes, relationships to each other, how they frame the stage, posture, and movement. Scenes have varying degrees of freedom- some are very particular, and precision will be paramount, but others have scope for dancers to explore within.

Performance
The invited guests will perform with some of the most celebrated artists the UK has to offer, including the formidable Thomasin Gülgec (Rambert, Royal Ballet, Russell Maliphant) and Lee Clayden (ENO, Companhia Portuguesa de Bailado Contempreano, Random Dance, Walker Dance Park Music).

They will be welcomed and treated as part of the team, and will gain a deep insight into professional practice, being part of rehearsals, the tech and lighting calls pre-show preparations and warm up, as well as the performance itself. This will provide valuable knowledge which guests can use and consider within their professional development and practice.
Evaluation and Feedback

Company Chameleon will work closely with institutions wishing to use the programme as part of a study module, agreeing and assisting in the development of (where appropriate) any frameworks, benchmarks or assessment criteria.

The artistic team can grade the chosen artists where required.

Although the full opportunity is available to 6 invited guests, parts of the process will be open to a maximum of 25 dancers.

The audition process will take the format of a workshop day and will cover the training and insights elements detailed above.

This day will also include exploration of other tools and approaches the company works with, including partner work.

The training and insights elements can also be open to all for the 3 days. (maximum 3 hrs per day assuming an 8-hour day)

Bespoke programmes can be discussed for in-depth development for the dancers who are not the 6 selected guest performers.

This can include:

- An extra day with AD Anthony Missen to give further devising tools
- Creation of a curtain raiser to precede the show either on stage or within/around the venue building
- Staggered visits by AD Anthony Missen to act as a choreographic mentor for students devising their own work (working with “the Chameleon toolkit or without)
- Creation of a work for all of the dancers by Anthony Missen beyond the performance dates.