

Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

Holly Thomas

HALF LIGHT



“I believe you are doing something truly unique here with Audio Description and dance, helping us audience re-conceptualise dance as something that is heard and felt, rather than viewed from a distance”.

Visually Impaired Audience Member

“Half Light combines a delicacy of means with deeply considered underlying principles. A Dance piece, a sound piece, a piece of narrative performance - and an inclusive audience experience which feels almost healing”

Phil Owen, Producer, Arnolfini



Holly Thomas is a visually impaired dance artist, choreographer and performer whose practice explores the uncharted territory of dance, audio description and visual impairment. Holly (pictured above, centre) has performed with Touchdown Dance and is a regular collaborator with artists as an Audio Description advisor and critical friend, including Second Hand Dance, Stuart Waters and Lost Dog Dance.

Performed in dusky light in the round, Holly's production of *Half Light* blends choreography and text with a multi-textured, multi-located sound design to create an inclusive experience for blind, visually impaired and sighted audiences. The cast of four visually impaired and sighted performers explore the passing of time from day to night and back to sunrise, evoking an experience of twilight as a shifting sensory landscape where memory and time are ambiguous. The production pushes the boundaries of dance, radically reimagining the artform where the visual element is decentred.

"I often feel disconnected from dance performance, which is typically designed to be viewed from a distance. The audio description, when available, is mainly delivered through headsets, and is an 'add on' access tool that functionally describes bodies moving in space. I wanted to find a new way to make dance that weaves description throughout the work and that foregrounds proximity and connection between performer and audience for an embodied 'felt' experience".

Holly Thomas



Holly Thomas:

Holly Thomas has performed with Touchdown Dance and recently delivered live audio description for SOMA, a production by Lisa May Thomas. She is lead collaborator on 'Crunch' for the Velcro Collective and regularly works with artists as an Audio Description advisor and critical friend.

The *Half Light* team:

Dance Artists Kip Johnson (Lost Dog, Protein Dance Company, Vincent Dance Theatre), Linzy Na Nakorn (Jo Fong, Frantic Assembly, Velcro Collective) and Holly Thomas

Dramaturg Raquel Meseguer Zafe (Olivier Award Nominee, Lost Dog, A Crash Course in Cloudspotting)

Narrator & Performer Douglas Walker (Adelaide Fringe Weekly Best Comedy Winner 2016, The Visit- National Theatre, His Fathers Nose, Sherlock in Homes)

Sound Design & Composer Dan Pollard (30 Animals that Made us Smarter, Noughts and Crosses, Algoritmo)



Half Light is supported by Arts Council England, Arnolfini, The Place, Bristol Trinity Centre, Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio and Gather Up

BOOKING DETAILS

Touring	from Spring 2025
Performers on stage	4
Number on the road	5
Running time	60 minutes
Number of performances per day	3 beginning 1.30pm/2pm (with one hour to re-set in between performances)
Get in	On the day of the show with lighting rigged in advance
Performing Area	Half Light is performed in an ellipse shape measuring 10m x 4.5m. The audience is seated around the performances with 1m at four compass points. Black box or blackout space, no rake. Audience capacity: 36.
Minimum technical requirements	Professional quality lighting rig and good quality sound system.
Technical staff required by promoter:	one
England touring costs (per performance):	£1800 inclusive of travel and accommodation.
Overseas touring	price available on request
Trailer	https://vimeo.com/857486231
R&D Sharing footage	https://vimeo.com/846961302 p/w Half Light ArnOlfini
Wraparound	Post show talks and workshops available
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Images



Image 1 - Hand on Shoulder

Image description: A colour photograph taken in close up, in a black box studio.

In sharp focus, in the foreground, we see the bare forearm of a performer, their hand resting on the shoulder of another, who is wearing a warm, sunrise yellow shirt. Her long brown hair rests on the fingertips of the first performer's hand.

Behind her a blurred image of the arm, shoulder and chest of a third performer who is wearing a mustard yellow T-shirt. His arm is bent at the elbow at 90 degrees. All three performers are in profile facing in the same direction. In the background a blurred green light appears to hover in the otherwise empty black box space.

Image 2: Three Crouch In Trio

Image Description: A colour photo taken in a black box studio of three performers (from left to right) Kip, Holly and Linzy. Taken in profile, they are crouched in unison, in stillness, all facing in one direction. They wear loose tops and trousers in tones of yellow ochres, earthy browns and moss green.

Image 3: Four Performers in a line

Image description: A colour photo taken in a black box studio. Four performers (from left to right) Douglas, Linzy, Holly and Kip, stand in a line facing us. They each hold a small black wireless speaker in one hand. They wear loose tops and trousers in tones of yellow ochres, earthy browns and moss green. Behind them a single row of audience sit listening to the sounds of sunrise that emanate from the speakers.

Image 4: Three Performers rise from crouching

Image description: A colour photo taken in a black box studio. Three performers (from left to right) Kip, Holly, and Linzy. Rise, in unison (to thereabouts), from crouching to standing, each with one hand unfurling, their arms reach toward an imagined night sky. They wear loose tops and trousers in tones of yellow ochres, earthy browns and moss green.

Image 5: Hand Holds Speaker

ID for image 5: A colour photo taken in a black box studio. In close up, a black wireless speaker rests in the hand of a performer, whose fingers cradle the object. In the background a small blurred white light creates an orb contrasting against the black background.

Photographer: Christopher Lewis Smith

