

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 reimaging 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 are:

Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer – Holly Thomas

Theatre Director – Lizzie Minnion

Actor & Collaborating Artist – Douglas Walker

Dancers & Collaborating Artists – Luke Divali, Linzy Na Nakorn, Kip Johnson (R&D)

Dramaturg – Raquel Meseguer Zafe (R&D)

Lighting Designer – Chris Swain

Producer – Katy Noakes

Sound Designer – Dan Pollard

Wardrobe Designer – Lydia Higginson

Filmmaker – Dan Canham, Christopher Lewis Smith (R&D)

Stills Photographer – Vonalina Cake

Artistic Director Access Support – Laura Dannequin, Katy Noakes

Studio Access & Rehearsal Directors – Tara Silverthorn, Ania Varez, Laura Dannequin (R&D), Thomas Goodwin (R&D), Deepraj Singh (R&D)



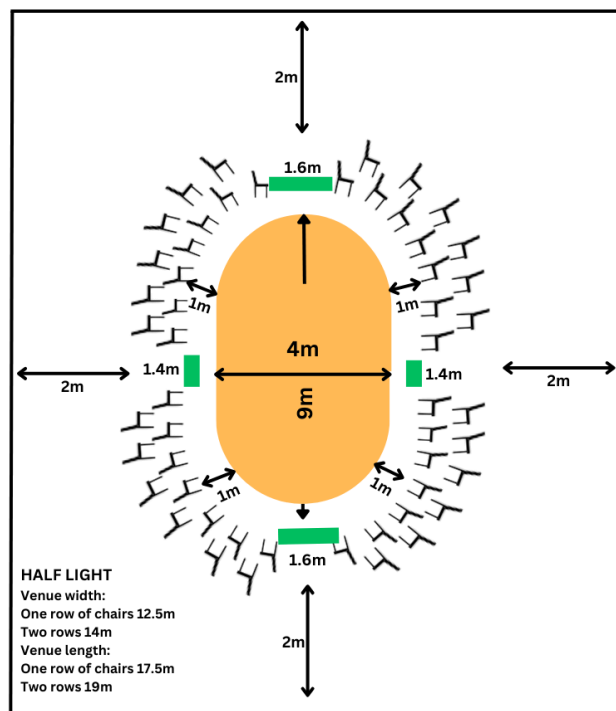
Half Light is commissioned by The Place and is supported by Arts Council England, Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement, Arnolfini, Gather Up, Pavilion Dance South West, Pervasive Media Studio and Trinity Arts.

BOOKING DETAILS

Touring	from mid-September 2025
Performers on stage	4
Number on the road	5
Running time	60 minutes + pre-show touch tour (20 minutes)
Number of performances per day	2 beginning 1.30pm/2pm (with 90 minutes to re-set in between performances)

Get in	Day before first performance (minimum 6 hours)
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Performing Area	Minimum performance area 12.5m x 17.5m. Half Light is performed in an ellipse shape measuring 9m x 4m in front of and behind the audience - seated in one or two rows around the ellipse with entrances at four compass points. Black box or blackout space, no rake.
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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
Video edit with audio description	https://vimeo.com/871876139
R&D Sharing footage	https://vimeo.com/846961302 p/w Half Light ArnOlfini
Video extract foregrounding sound	https://drive.google.com/file/d/15prnpiv2bsF-ufBkFl1ZHxhR7sHdX9eY/view?ts=64ea4129
Additional audience engagement	<p>Touch tour available prior to each performance (included in fee)</p> <p>Practical resource for working with visually impaired artists and audiences to support the marketing pack (included in fee)</p> <p>Creative Audio Describing workshop with Holly (additional cost)</p> <p>Listening Body physical workshop with Holly (additional cost)</p> <p>Post show talks (included in fee)</p>
Contact	<p>Sarah Trist @ Sarah Trist Dance Management Agency +44 7757 654790 sarah@stdma.com</p>

www.stdma.com

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