

Show of Hands

By: Freddie Opoku-Addaie

Directed by : Graeme Miller

RUNNING TIME: 45 minutes (no interval)

SHOW OF HANDS

Choreography & Performer: Freddie Opoku - Addaie
Director & Composer: Graeme Miller
Design: Mamoru Iriguchi
Sculptors: Friedel Buecking & Christine Kowal-Post
Lighting Design: Michael Mannion

Production Manager: Anthony 'Oz' Osborne
Rehearsal Observations and Feedback: Mary Ann Hushlak,
Rosemary Lee, Kwaku Aacht & Dan Watson
Marketing & Communications: Tia Hassan
Creative Producer: Eckhard Thiemann

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Commissioned by: Dance Umbrella and Greenwich Dance Agency/
Trinity Laban Partnership. Show of Hands is supported using public
funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England'
Freddie Opoku - Addaie acknowledges the support of Stratford Circus,
The Place (Choreodrome 2013 & Touch Wood), Bernie Grant
Arts Centre, The Point, South East Dance, the Hat Factory,
East London Dance, Independent Dance (Feedback Forum)
Cambridge Junction (Sampled), State of Emergency, Arts At Dartington.

With special thanks to: Betsy Gregory and Donna Meierdiercks for
their support over the past years and all my collaborators, who have
so generously supported me in the creation of this work.
Show of Hands is dedicated to the memory of Rashpal Singh Bansal,
forever an inspirational friend and artist.

BIOGRAPHY:

FREDDIE OPOKU - ADDAIE | JAGGED ANTICS

Freddie Opoku-Addaie is a British-born choreographer, performer
and educator of Ghanaian heritage. His childhood in Ghana during
his formative years and his subsequent return back to east London
provide the major influences for his work. Opoku-Addaie asks
fundamental questions about our perceptions of meaningful
cultural differences and what constitute similarities.

He initially intended to study art and design, but his interest in
more malleable artistic processes and collaborations with different
art forms led him to the performing arts. He regularly works with
artists from other art forms and integrates artistic practices from
different cultures. His works seek to expose the unspoken and
hidden codes which are inherited in every culture, the craftsman's
use of his tools in the process of making, and the gestures of the
everyday.

Opoku-Addaie juxtaposes instinctive movements of folk and
ritualistic practices with structured rules and parameters of gaming.
The results are viscerally affecting dance pieces which explore
universal notions of the group, the individual and the outsider.



Photo Credit: Benedict Johnson

Opoku-Addaie is a former Associate Artist of the Royal Opera House
and recipient of numerous choreographic awards and
commissions, including the Robin Howard Commission 2009, The Place
Prize Finalist as choreographer/performer in 2006 and 2010/11
sponsored by Bloomberg, and numerous international choreographic
residencies. Opoku-Addaie has been commissioned by leading dance
organisations and companies, including Royal Opera House,
East London Dance, Ballet Boyz and 2Faced Dance Company. His
works have toured nationally and internationally, inc. Spain, India
and Italy.

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTES:

Show of Hands places sculptural objects in a space with a solitary
human and makes choreography of the anxious cohabitation. It is a
field of play drawing on autobiographical material as a starting point.
Movement, choreography, sound and text are used to express the
physical and psychological effects of provocation (racial and otherwise)
and how it has touched one man's life.

The relentless presence of over 20 carved hands makes an arena in
which the performer pitches himself against an unrelenting series of
invisible obstructions, creating a chain reaction of movement, speech
and sound.

Show of Hands is a commonly used phrase to describe the action of
people raising their hands so that their vote can be counted. The
performer negotiates his pathway across the stage. Is this the hand
he's been dealt or is this all in his mind? Are these episodes calculated
or coincidental? Or is it just a case of being in the wrong place at the
wrong time? Who or what shapes the hands we're dealt in our lives?

Show of Hands makes music of thought-driven action and sound that
follows its own logic but also makes an autobiographical landscape
tinged with personal and political resonances. Its environment allows
multiple readings and layers of meaning, a space in which
life experience and decisions can be played out with personal integrity
and cunning wit.

WEBSITES:

Graeme Miller
Mamoru Iriguchi
Friedel Buecking
Christine Kowal-Post

www.artsadmin.co.uk/artists/graeme-miller
www.iriguchi.co.uk
www.friedelbueckingwoodsculptor.co.uk
www.christinekowalpost.com

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