



Set Description for Birds of Paradise Company's performances of Purposeless Movements, 2019 Edinburgh International Festival

We will describe the set and how the characters use it and what visual effects happen during the show.

The floor is a black dancefloor level with the floor as you enter the space. Dominating the back of the stage is a large red rough textured wall that is 7 metres wide covers almost the full width of the stage and is 5 metres high. The sides of the stage are open into black space. On each side, you can see 2 white shelving units that each hold a webcam and props such as a baby wrapped in a blanket, red faux flowers and cups and saucers.

There are light units at the base of the red wall. There are also two lighting booms on each side of the stage with lights that shine directly across the stage. To the left of the stage is a plain wooden dining table, suitable for 4 people. On the table are straws, a table cloth, and white plates.

Our musicians, Scott and Jill, are positioned opposite this to the right of the stage, near the audience. Surrounding them in an electric piano, guitars, a violin and maracas.

At the very front of the stage are 4 microphones and 4 wooden chairs. They are in a uniform line going microphone, chair, microphone, chair etc. These are moved around as needed throughout the show but the microphones finish the show in the same place as they started.

The show has moving lighting that is used to follow some cast movements. At times the lights spotlight the cast, emphasising them. The main colours used are white, blues and purples. At the end of the show the lights at the base of the red wall beam out at the audience from behind cast creating strong glare and producing silhouettes.

At various points throughout the performance, the webcams are projected onto the back wall sometimes we see only 2 cameras on it and sometimes it is all 4. There is an overhead camera that is used to show an overhead image of the stage at various points, this allows, for example, us to see the action on the table and the British Sign Language interpretation. This is projected onto the back wall.

Throughout the show, captions are projected onto the back wall. The BSL interpreter Amy Cheskin moves around and within the action throughout the performance.

We will now describe how the cast of characters use the space. The cast are on stage for the whole show. When they are not actively involved in the speech or movement they are seated at the side of the stage next to the shelving units. During the show, the microphones and wooden chairs are moved around and repositioned as required. At one stage the four men sit at the table and play anarchically with the objects on it.

Costumes:

To interact with the red colour of the back wall the cast wear a selection of muted jewel tones.

Pete - Turquoise short sleeved t-shirt. Dark blue trousers. Grey trainers.

Phil - Dark blue shirt with buttons down the front. Grey jacket. Red jeans. Dark trainers with orange laces

Colin - Ochre yellow short-sleeved polo shirt with collar. Navy trousers. Burgundy trainers.

Laurence - Mauve trousers. Navy long-sleeved top. Blue jacket. Navy trainers

Amy - Navy knee-length dress, short sleeves and a collar. Ochre trainers.

Scott - Dark olive short-sleeved polo shirt with collar. Black trousers

Jill - Olive coloured dress with similar coloured long sleeved t-shirt beneath