

The Celestial Sound Cloud



A graceful digital sound and light installation where the audience move to explore the balance of nature and technology, earth bound and celestial and their own dancing selves.

Celestial Sound Cloud is an interactive digital sound and light sculpture inspired by Cosmic Clouds and Nebulas - clouds of dust and gases in which stars are formed. It is currently 5m x 5m x 2m depth, hung above the audience. Within this five linked pods house motion sensors and Arduinos firing co-ordinated light sequences in a system of LEDs and separate elements of beautiful vocal chords as the audience move beneath.

The Structure itself has recently been completely rebuilt in a beautiful swooping mirror layered material which sits elusively and tantalisingly in its environment - importantly allowing it to be effective in day time as well as at night.

The piece provokes the audience of strangers to come together and learn to interact with the sculpture and one another by singing, moving and dancing underneath creating their own visual experience and soundscape.

CSC was originally commissioned in 2016 by Kendal Calling. The design built upon lead artist Eleanor Hooper's work at LISPA and her recorded voice makes up the sound track. At the debut we saw audience acting as we hoped, filtering in and out of the space creating new groups, moods ebbing and flowing and a creating a sense of beauty, discovery and the creation of a special space.

The piece is very much in development in partnership between director Eleanor Hooper and technologist Kyle Hlrani as we research how audiences and voice react with the installation and how we can exploit the technological potential for the structure to be spread over multiple square kilometres of urban or rural environment. The new structure has been created with CNC technology making the creation of many more of the interactive pods realistic - creating a very real nebula.

Touring practicalities

- Can be fitted indoors or outdoors in all weathers and needs low ambient light.
- Sculpture runs from a single 240v power supply with a simple on/off switch.
- Is 5m x 5m x 2m deep, total weight approx 120kg.
- Is suspended from 3 anchor points between 5.5 and 6.5m above ground & min 8m apart.
- Height of sculpture above audience, 1.8 - 3m, depending on audience type and ambience.
- Pif-Paf can carry out appropriate structural calculations. A site visit is may required and we may ask host to provide necessary access equipment (ladders, tower or MEWP).
- full site reqts and design calcs are available on request.



Background -

The Installation was initially commissioned by Kendal Calling festival and Walk The Plank in July 2016 and is based on the exploration of space and movement that Eleanor had developed on her MA at LISPA 2014/15.

In 2017 we completely rebuilt the sculpture to make it more suitable for day time use alongside after dark

Pif-Paf are a highly acclaimed Sheffield UK based Visual and Physical Theatre company creating work from the intimate to the extreme with a mix of well crafted theatre, beautiful engineering, charming music and a deep set integrity.

We create work that pushes the limits of the art form whether it be daredevil acrobatics on dynamic engineered circus structures or work that finds new ways of engaging with our relationship with the environment.

Our work is seen at a huge range of festivals, institutions, theatres and events. Shows include The Bee Cart, The Flycycle and Submercycle, Action Painting and SEED.



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