Whispered Tales
Where arts meet heritage

DISTANT DRUMS

PERFORMANCE

WHISPERED TALES is a Liverpool-based arts organisation artistically led by Esther Simpson and Steve Gibbs. Whispered Tales shine a light on forgotten stories for our diverse audiences.

DISTANT DRUMS

Distant Drums is an outdoor 15-minute performance that tells the story of Reggae Sound System culture and the importance of music in the fight for racial equality. The installation consists of a hand-made replica vintage Jamaican-style sound system stack placed on a statue plinth. Inside the sound system are digital screens which show a series of animations to a recorded soundtrack. There are two dancers who perform on the plinth and in a performance space directly in front of the installation.

THE TOURING TEAM: x 4 people

Whispered Tales Director
Technician
2 x Performers

LOCATIONS

Our ideal location is a high footfall area with a level concrete floor. Distant Drums retells the story of Reggae Sound System culture and the importance of music in the fight for racial equality. Locations that can offer a greater depth or resonance include:
Sites that have a connection to black heritage
Sites near to a music venue or festival
Sites near to other statues
Sites near water, docks or ports

TECHNICAL & LOGISTICS

- We require a total performance space that is 5m wide x 7m deep
- The sound system sits on a statue plinth 4m wide 1m deep and 60cm high
- The Sound System including the plinth is 3.2m high
- Ideally we require a flat level concrete floor for the performance space
- The audience can view from the front and the two sides
- The show is suitable for daytime as well as after dark
- The show is 15 minutes
- The installation is waterproof, In extreme weather we would cover the installation
- The installation is ratchet strapped together and has a total weight of 320kg
- The plinth is made of aluminium staging with adjustable legs then clad with wooden waterproof boarding
- The festival / venue should provide 16amp power
- The festival / venue to provide a monitor speaker and all cables from the back of the installation to the front of the performance space
- The festival / venue should provide an indoor space near to the performance space where the performers can warm up and relax between shows.

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- The festival / venue to provide stewards for the performance
- The festival / venue to provide 1 technician to help unload the van and assist the company technician with set-up, and the derig
- The installation takes 2 hours to set up and 1 hours to de-rig
- Parking required for long wheel based transit van
- The animations are displayed on digital screens within the sound system
- The sound is played from within the sound system
- There is a different installation soundtrack and film which can be played before and after the show and can run on a continuous loop

PRS: Distant Drums concludes with the song "Are You Ready" by Vibronics and Macka B

For further information please contact Esther Simpson
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