

PRESS RELEASE

Alexander Whitley Dance Company brings new interactive light installation and dance performance to London for the first time

Strange Stranger is a performance and interactive light installation that investigates the idea of presence and the right to be forgotten in the digital age, and where movement creates a unique interplay of light and mood.

Commissioned by Sadler's Wells and York Mediale, Strange Stranger premiered at York Mediale 2018 and is in London for the first time at Watermans, as part of its annual Digital Weekender which brings the best and brightest digital art and performance talent to West London.

Alexander Whitley has received significant attention for his past works that have investigated the impact of technology, such as artificial intelligence, on contemporary human experience and his groundbreaking use of interactive technology to redefine the parameters of choreography.

For this new work, Alexander is collaborating with Dutch light installation artists Children of the Light (renowned for their stunning lighting designs and scenography for Nicolas Jaar), British composer Beatrice Dillon and Italian creative technologists, Luca Biada and Michele Panegrossi of Studio FENYCE.

Drawing upon the notion of a 'data shadow', the digital profile formed from the traces of information we unintentionally leave behind through our routine interaction with technology, Strange Stranger explores the paradox of how, the more information we have access to, the stranger and more incomprehensible the world seems. It questions the idea of presence in the information age, considering the growing divide between the spaces in which our bodies are situated and the places in which we are active, asking: How can you be present but not here? How can you be here but not present?

Within a grid of three-metre high towers, structures appear, transform and vanish into the shadows as light dazzlingly animates this live interactive space. Data from activity inside the installation is captured by motion sensors, leaving traces in the light and altering the subsequent character of the space. A performance by four dancers to Beatrice Dillon's composition of driving and fracturing rhythms provides the initial data for the installation, placing a 'shadow' within the space for the public to encounter as they explore its dynamic forms.

Audiences may freely visit the installation, donning wristbands to interact with it. On Sat 10, three dance performances will take place in the installation at 3.30pm, 5pm and 6.30pm (£7).

Photography: Tom Andrew

Listings

Watermans, 40 High Street, Brentford TW8 0DS

Watermans.org.uk

Box Office: 020 8232 1010

Nearest rail: Kew Bridge

Nearest tube: Gunnersbury then bus 237 or 267

Digital Weekender

A weekend festival of digital art and performance

Sat 10, 12pm-9pm & Sun 11 Nov, 11am-6pm

Our annual Digital Weekender brings the best and brightest digital art and performance talent to Watermans. Immerse yourself in an electronic musical adventure in our theatre, and a dynamic light installation and performance from exciting choreographer Alexander Whitley and his super talented collaborators. Plus electronics workshops and the chance to experience True Love!

Alexander Whitley Dance Company

Strange Stranger

Part of Watermans' Digital Weekender

Sat 2-9pm (performances 3.30pm, 5pm, 6.30pm) & Sun 11am-6pm.

Strange Stranger is a performance and interactive light installation that investigates the idea of presence and the right to be forgotten in the digital age, and where movement creates a unique interplay of light and mood. Put on a wrist band and interact with the installation, and book to experience a brand new and unique interactive dance performance by one of London's most exciting choreographers.

About Watermans

Watermans is West London's leading arts centre. It attracts over 230,000 visits a year to its thriving and inclusive programme of independent cinema, family and Asian theatre, regular weekend festivals, exhibitions and courses. Watermans runs a year-round programme of cutting-edge digital arts for which it receives National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England, and has done so for many years.

Watermans also leads several other major projects outside its venue. These are primarily concerned with broadening access to high quality arts in communities that engage little, if at all, in the arts, to support community cohesion and economic regeneration:

- **Bell Square**, the outdoor arts venue in Hounslow Town Centre, now in its fifth year.
- **Circulate**, a London-wide outdoor arts touring network that takes the arts to areas where Londoner's live
- **Creative People & Places Hounslow**, Arts Council England's major investment in increasing arts capacity in underserved areas, working in Feltham, Heston and Cranford, and central Hounslow

For more information please contact Marketing Director Erica Weston on Erica@watermans.org.uk



**London Borough
of Hounslow**



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