

Memories of Suburbia





About the Piece

In the last years of her life Nan and I spoke about our home, Hampton - a town in deepest suburbia. She said people move here to start a family or meet their maker.

I imagine this setting as a threshold. At night I danced in the shadows cast by Hampton's well organised street lights, searching for something beneath the suburb's comfort and shelter.

As I drifted outside Nan was indoors, drifting through the thoughts and feelings of her inner space. This work weaves those two movements together, invoking Hampton's quiet mood and channeling the emotions found there.

To see a trailer visit - https://vimeo.com/55368838

Memories of Suburbia is created and performed by Will Dickie

Lighting Design by Martin Langthorne

It has been supported through the Dance and the Homemade scheme at Chisenhale Dance Space.



Technical Information

Memories of Suburbia is a 35 minute solo incorporating movement, text, video and lighting design. It is ideally suited for a dark, intimate indoor space with audience end on or in a thrust if the rig allows.

Suggested minimum playing area is width 4m x depth 6m and requires a lighting rig of 4-5 lights to support the LX plan below.

Sound is provided on CD or laptop and needs to fill the space.

Depending on travel distance, a piano stool, a large old TV on a moving stand with DVD player and remote would need sourcing.

Get in time is a half day and get out is one hour. I technician is needed to assist with rigging and operate LX and sound.

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About Will Dickie

Memories of Suburbia is Will's first performance piece as a solo artist, inspired by time spent alone on the streets of his suburban town. Hampton is a short flm about those experiences which you can see here:

https://vimeo.com/39581098

In Will's research process he responds and interacts with place; using his sensitivity to take recordings, talk to people and move there. The findings are processed and examined through Will's deep, ongoing psychophysical practices which include martial arts, actor training methods and butoh dance.

With combinations of movement, text, sound and video Will is interested in creating sincere and evocative experiences, for site or stage, carved out of the matter of his immediate surroundings. He looks to take his audiences deeply into the present moment, creating space for fresh perspectives on the aspects of humanity his process has brought to the surface.

Will has worked and trained internationally as actor, dancer and director, including for Tadashi Endo's Mamu Dance Theatre (Germany), OzFrank Theatre (Australia) and Zecora Ura (UK/Brazil). He uses his experiences to lead workshops for both young and established artists in elements of his training and their application to creative work.



Reviews

**** - 'A beautifully tender, wistful solo.'

Dickie understands the lingering grief of time, and people, passing. He enters under the skin of the sensations this induces, but — as with the text and video imagery — the episodes of dance are well-gauged and thoughtfully integrated. Above all, this solo looks beyond the ache of mourning and builds, instead, into a loving celebration of the people and places that have shaped him. By the end, we have had glimpses of a past that isn't ours. We've been led, however, to recollect our own memories, suburban or rural, and to take pleasure in the way that a sound, a smell, a turn of phrase or maybe even our own face in a mirror can trigger a wealth of associations.

Ilt remains memorable, weeks after Buzzcut, for all the best and most pleasurable reasons.

Mary Brennan, Glasgow Herald

Memories of Suburbia is an exquisite, deeply moving and finely executed piece of autobiographical performance that, at one and the same time, audaciously challenges any conventional ideas of what autobiographical performance might look and feel like...both fiercely imaginative and stunningly original.

Adrian Howells, Live Artist

In Memories of Suburbia I saw the making of an artist who had great physical skill, a strong sense of aesthetic, who feels and enables his audience to feel the content of his work deeply, and who I could perceive had great potential.

Bethany Haynes, BAC producer

Memories of Suburbia is available for touring. If you are interested in the possibility of bringing this piece to your festival or venue it would be great to hear from you. Get in touch by email: willdickie@hotmail.com or phone 0044(0)7515970648