

Reckless Sleepers

it's hot it's not



a unicorn theatre production in association with reckless sleepers

reckless-sleepers.eu

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In January 2019 a plywood construction was installed in the Unicorn studio Theatre. A framework for all of the experiments, ideas, sequences, scenarios and objects that we'd accumulated during the research & development phases for its hot its not.

For most of that time we'd been a little obsessed by form, with how we perform, what behaviour would unite us as performers on stage. For some time we'd worked on imitating each others movements a back and forth of observing and replaying. Exaggerating the differences and nuances, so that a pair would exchange a set of gestures to evolve into something even more exaggerated and extreme, until it crashed, or span out of control or until a third person would walk into view and break the cycle, rescue the pair and bring in a new set of gestures to imitate.

We'd arrived with a rough order of events, somewhat structured by the run of the seasons, starting and ending with Spring. We'd invented some scenarios on paper that we thought might work within this plywood construction, so we tried these new sets of sequences out, some of them worked, some lay the foundations for new scenes, our playful experiments were starting to take shape.

We'd already had in mind to create a series of four big scenic images for each season, starting the construction of winter in autumn summer in spring...we reintroduced the foley sounds that we experimenting with back in 2017, we brought back "the fly" the noise of which led to the introduction of Baccara's "yes sir I can boogie"...

We had to play "Club Tropicana", (because it was Summer) we had to try "Singing in the rain"

By the 3rd week of devising and rehearsals we we'd produced a first draft, an order of events to be shown to a preview audience.

It's hot its not was born.

press reviews



Is a 45 minute performance commissioned for children from 2 to 5, though certainly not limited to that age group..“A babe in arms next to me seemed captivated and accompanying adults were enjoying it too.”
‘Cleverly matched to its target audience. It could be the start of a lifetime of theatre going.’
Howard Loxton | British Theatre Guide

‘The mood is bright and cheerful, and the target audience is completely engaged throughout [...] Delightful.’
Duska Radosavljevic | The Stage

Confusion, disorientation and turbulence have never been more fun: the three actors — whose work is superb — manage to transform clumsiness into a major highlight [...] Winds, monsoons and sunshine coexist in forty-five minutes of pure fun.’ Curious Mum

‘It’s not quite a dance show, although it is very physical. It’s sort of visual comedy. But not quite slapstick [...] Whatever it was, it was enjoyably bonkers.’ The Family Stage

audience feedback

The minimal raw plywood set was beautiful and managed to create the perfect landscape for your imagination to tell the story. The show and the set was full of playfulness and intrigue, little trapdoors and surprises. A completely unpatronising and refreshing way of presenting theatre to young people.

LOVED IT. At first I didn't realise there would be no dialogue at all (until the day before) and wondered if our 3 year old would stay in engaged but he was utterly enchanted. Personally I think it did what the best theatre should do (adult and children's) which is to expand our imaginative universe and show us a different way of looking at everyday things.

I thought it was entrancing-for both adults and the young children. It was innovative, simple in the imaginative clever use of props and staging and yet quite complex. The three actors were wonderful and it was amazing how they captivated the young audience without the use of any words. The children had to think about what was going on, they could come to their own assumptions without any verbal leads from adults. We will definitely come to another show we really enjoyed the freshness, abstract openness, playfulness.

I thought the show was fantastic. I would like to see shows like that more often.



media release

Reckless Sleepers is an extraordinary company who make work between visual art, dance & theatre. This surreal, funny & carefully crafted physical performance explores the weather in all its forms & takes delight in discovering the world anew & how we experience it differently, wherever we are.

It's Hot, It's Not plays with the idea of accumulation and cause and effect. Gestures, movements and objects move in and out of focus; they get collected, they get bigger, they get smaller, they evolve into something else. Ideas and stories appear and disappear, like a child looking up at the clouds and noticing what they look like, what they imagine them to be, what they could be - and then the wind changes and the next formation appears, and the game begins again.



publicity copy

Why is it that sometimes I'm hot but you're cold? Why are there puddles and sometimes not? How can it be sunny and rainy all at once and also not at all? And if it's summer here, why is it winter there?

Some call it our nation's obsession but where would we be without the weather? It's Hot, It's Not is a celebration of climatic elements by the major international performance company Reckless Sleepers, renowned for creating bold, innovative and, above all, original work.

This surreal, funny and carefully crafted physical performance explores the weather in all its forms from summer to autumn, winter to spring and takes delight in discovering the world anew and how we experience it differently, wherever we are.

Reckless Sleepers' work sits somewhere between visual art, dance and theatre. Formed in 1988, and taking its name from a painting by the Belgian surrealist Rene Magritte, the company of 12 artists of specialisms in visual art, dance and theatre make work that collides these disciplines to create new worlds out of the debris.

Age guide: 2 – 5 / Duration: approx 45 mins /

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website www.reckless-sleepers.eu

hi resolution images [Flickr album](#)

full length video <https://vimeo.com/326095472/d4ab1cf81c>

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logos

**Reckless
Sleepers**



technical requirements

We require a minimum depth of 4m and a width of 8m (ideally 5m x 10m) with a bare clean floor, preferably black. The set consists of a large plywood floor (7.2m x 3.6m), a wall with hatches (2.4m x 3.6m) and a hanging ceiling with hatches (3m x 2m) suspended at a height of 2.5m. There are 5 booms with 45 degree scaff. connectors and bars for lanterns.

There are 4 company members on tour.

[detailed technical download](#)

credits

UK touring ; A Unicorn Theatre Production in association with Reckless Sleepers
International Venues : A Reckless Sleepers / Unicorn Theatre (London) production

Devised by

Mole Wetherell, Kevin Egan, Tim Ingram, Leen Dewilde and Alex Covell

Performed by

Leen Dewilde, Kevin Egan, Alex Covell, Mole Wetherell & Rachel Piekarczyk.

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