

**ADESOLA
AKINLEYE
DANCING
STRONG**

Light Steps

A performance piece for children and their families
Tour Pack



“Light Steps takes young audiences into the magical world of colour, music and interactive dance.”

Link to promotional video:

Light Step promo (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412780>

In schools & community (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412515>

For bookings or more information:

Terry Adams: Tour manager

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Company Web-site:

www.dancingstrong.com



Light Steps is a 45 minute music & dance performance suitable for small-scale venues, festivals, schools and site-specific locations.

Alex, an endearing rag doll, is woken by the morning light to explore a day punctuated by points as the sun travels across the sky. Beginning with the morning light, followed by something flying by in the midmorning, then a cloud over head in the mid-day sky, the tide coming in in the afternoon and finally a beautiful sunset, Alex's day is an adventure in colour, music and dance.

Alex's day is overseen by four guardian-angels/friends (dancers & musician) whose ethereal movements, music and dance mirror Alex's feelings, experiences and inquisitiveness. A soundtrack to Alex's exploits is provided by a profoundly beautiful live musical composition reflecting the various stages of the day's light. This dance and music performance piece is made for children and their families to enjoy colour, movement and music. There are points throughout the performance where the audience is invited to join in. Children are encouraged to be themselves.

"...we love the children's involvement and the movement of both dancers and fabric..."
(Parent audience member)

"...I liked the waves and the dolls. I feel like a dancer now!" ***(Child audience member)***

TOURING INFORMATION: performances & workshops:

Light-Steps can be delivered as a bespoke project that encompasses the residencies and workshops followed by a performance, or as a single performance or as stand alone workshop.

Performance: Light-Steps can be presented as a stand-alone 45 minute performance piece adapted to be performed within various settings including traditional theatre spaces, non-traditional spaces, galleries, at Festivals, in museums or as a site specific event. It has minimum technical requirements. The performance touring team consists of three dancers, one musician and a stage manager.

Workshop: Workshops have been designed to be bespoke, drawing on the themes of the production, (movement, light, colour, and moments in time). Workshops are flexible and can be offered as residencies, outreach, or educational workshops in museums, schools, community halls &/or theatre locations. Duration of workshops is 20-40 minutes. (Residencies are two to five days). Sessions are suitable for up to 20 children. At least one adult support worker from the commissioning organization will be required to be present throughout the workshop.

Fees*

Single performance: £500

Two performances on the same day at the same location: £800

Performance & workshop on same day: £600

Single workshops: £300 - £500
(according to bespoke formatting)



*[*Flexible costing is available according to venues or commissioning organization's needs – as of December 2016]*

Technical requirements:

The technical requirements for the production are self-contained and highly adaptable to all venue types

Performance space of minim of seven meters square

Electrical point for instrument, accessories and PA system



Jake with electric cello

STAGE SET-UP:

LED Lighting Unit (battery operated) on wheels

Electric Cello, loop & delay pedals & small PA system

Chair

'Cloud' hung from lighting rig in venues that have a lighting rig.



Cloud hung from rig

PROPS:

Alex - Rag doll puppet

'Flying thing' - puppet

Silk sheets and ribbons

Light gells



Alex

The DancingStrong Company

Founded by artist Adesola Akinleye in 2005, DancingStrong creates performance and dance-based projects (including the company's *finding dance in unusual spaces* project).

DancingStrong's professional performance company presents work theatres, community settings and schools throughout the UK, USA and Canada. The company's outreach and educational projects have provided arts based programming within communities in London UK, South East England, Winnipeg CA, rural Manitoba CA, Detroit USA, Flint USA, and New York USA.

Aims of DancingStrong include:

- Providing accessible dance work to audiences and participants
- To create work derived from life experiences which therefore possess a shared experience for audiences
- To deliver high quality arts in education work
- To create work for non traditional venues and site-specific spaces
- To engage audiences and participants of all ages
- Continue international collaborations of work

The Founder / Artistic Director

British born Akinleye trained at the Arts Educational School, London and The Rambert Academy but began her professional career as a dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem (USA). As a performer she has gone on to work with Union Dance Company and Carol Straker Dance Company (UK). Choreographically, Akinleye studied choreography with mentor Bessie Schönberg and has been awarded the Bonnie Bird New

Choreography

Award and a Trailblazers Fellowship by the Association of Dance of the African Diaspora (ADAD). Akinleye was awarded Woman of the Year for 'Distinguished achievement in the field of community dance' for her work for children by the Town of Islip, New York. Adesola is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA). She holds a PhD from Canterbury Christ Church University, and a Masters of Arts from Community from Middlesex University.

Light Steps and original work for children

Light Steps was premiered in summer 2014 at the Turner Contemporary, Margate. It was a production especially catered for children (aged 3+) and family audiences responding to the gallery's summer exhibit. The story takes inspiration from works by artist Spencer Finch in his first UK solo exhibit *The Skies can't keep their secret*, exhibited at the Turner Contemporary, Margate in the summer of 2014 as part of the Summer of Colour season. Originally Akinleye worked with USA scenographer Shelby Newport for Research and Development of the piece in a local Primary school. The final touring work is designed by UK scenographer Andy Hamer, with original music by Jake Alexander.



“...use of light and music was inspiring...”
(audience participant)

“It was very beautiful”
(workshop member)

**“Wonderful performance – magical experience,
thank you”**
(audience member)

**“The accompanying music was beautiful, the dancers
were awesome, we liked the use of colour and
scarves”**
(audience member)

**“ I enjoyed watching the dance and seeing some of
things we made up”**
(workshop participant)

Links to films of Light Steps:

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In schools & community (4 mins): <https://vimeo.com/120412515>



Credits

Choreography & Direction: Adesola Akinleye

Costume and Sceneographer: Andy Hamer

Composer and Musician: Jacob Alexander

Dancers: Alice Cade, Irisz Galuska, Natalie Lee

Stage Manager: Katherine Leung

Photography: Joe Culleton, Katherine Leung, Barry Lewis

Tour Manager: Terry Adams terry@anonymousarts.co.uk

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