



# Infra

Choreographed by Wayne McGregor

# Facts:

- **Choreographer:** Wayne McGregor
- **Music:** Max Richter
- **Performed by:** The Royal Ballet
- **Dancers:** 12 + extras for the crowd [Section 7]
- **Created:** 2008
- **Stimulus:**
  - A. Infra : The Latin phrase for ' below'
  - B. Life below the surface/skin of a city
  - C. T.S. Eliot's poem 'The Waste Land'
- **Choreographic Intention:**
  - A. Seeing below the surface. eg. beneath the facade of a person to their true emotional self
  - B. Different kinds of human relationships
  - C. The 2005 London Bombings
- **Choreographic Approach:**
  - A. Teach
  - B. Showing
  - C. Task setting



# Dance style

- Contemporary ballet

# Choreographic approach:

McGregor uses three methods to generate movement.

Teaching:

A phrase to the whole or part of the cast. Dancers' watch and either create a phrase exactly or create a version.

Showing:

A phrase on to a target dancer or dancers- others watch and copy or develop.

Task:

Set a choreographic task for dancers to complete or pose a choreographic problem for dancers to solve.



Male= 6  
Female= 6

12 Dancers

# Stimulus

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- Infra : The Latin phrase for ' below'
- Life below the surface/skin of a city
  - What goes on 'behind closed doors' The aspects of people's lives that are hidden when living in a large city.
- The Waste Land
  - T.S Eliot's poem The Waste Land was one of the stimuli for Infra. It is about a depressed city, (London) left destroyed after the war. The people trying to get on with their lives and ends in hope of a better future.



## Excerpt from The Waste Land poem:

“Under the brown fog of a winter dawn,

A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many,

I had not thought death had undone so many.

Sighs, short and infrequent, were exhaled,

And each man fixed his eyes before his feet”

# Choreographic Intention

- Seeing below the surface. eg. beneath the facade of a person to their true emotional self
- Different kinds of human relationships (how people interact with each other)
- The 2005 London Bombings





# Structure- The ballet comprises of .....

**Structure** The number of dancers is important for building the structure. Each section has a different set of dancers, starting with 3, then duets, a sextet of duets, solo, trio etc.

## Solos



## Ensembles



## Duets

# Aural Setting/Sound

1. Found sound: Train whistle, radio static, muffled speech, rumbling, morse code beeps.

2. Violin and strings

3. Piano

- Train whistles, muffled speech could be a busy platform.
- Soft piano could suggest grief after the tragedy.
- Morse code beeps could be a distress signal.

- Muffled speech possibly coming from above ground or could be white noise of a busy city. Radio static suggests a signal has been lost.

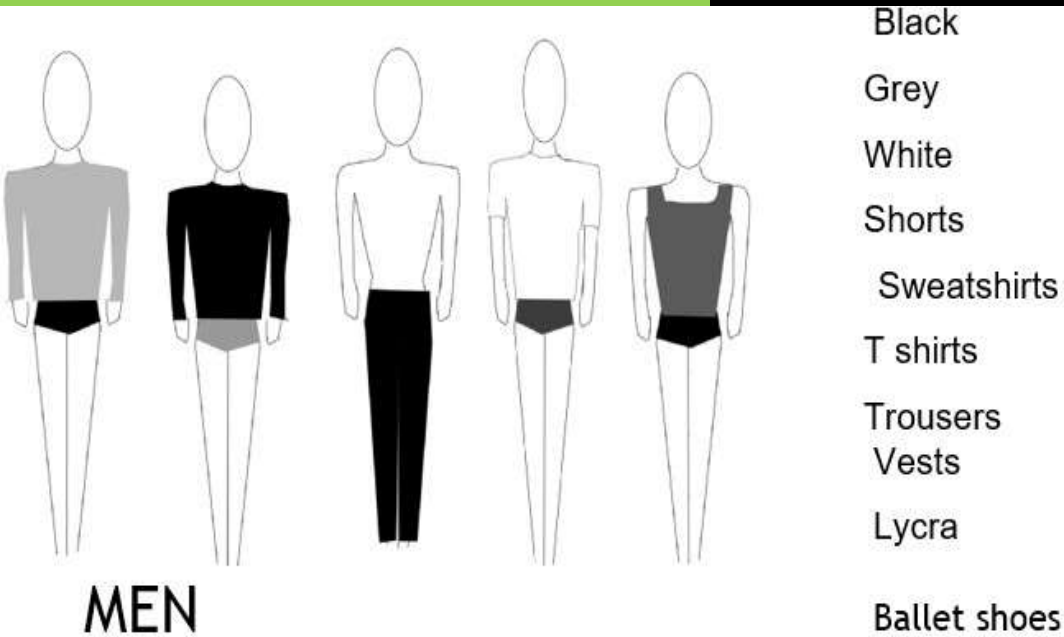


RADIO



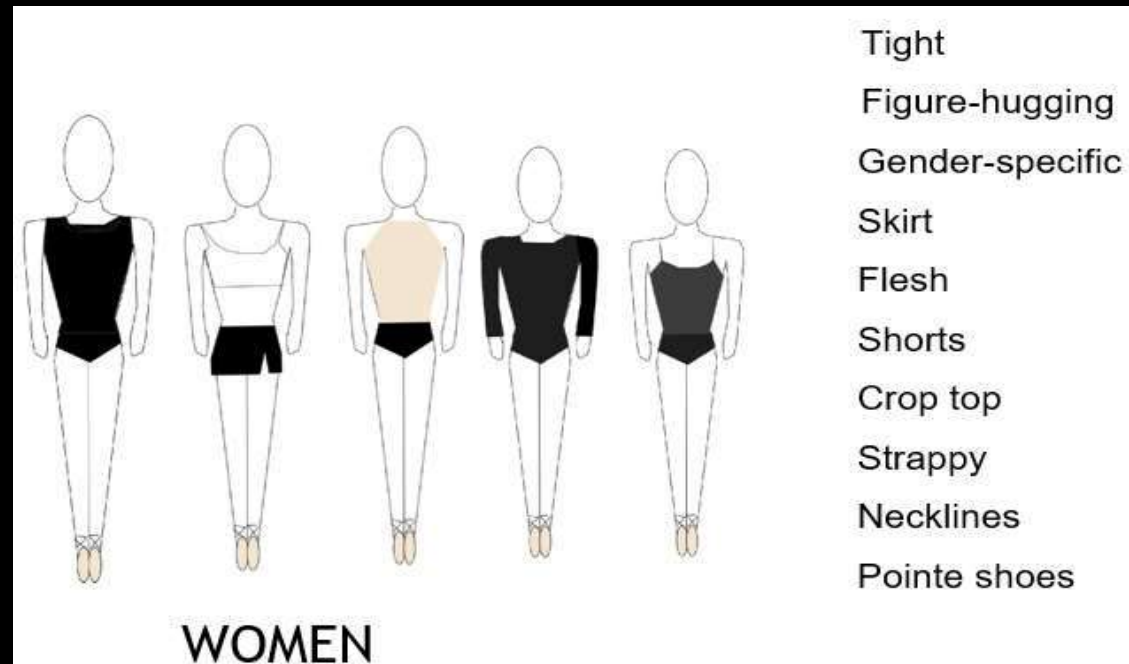
# Costume:

- Monochrome (Black and white) colours of costume match monochrome set.



- Black and grey suggest darkness of underground.
- Tight revealing costumes point to modern day.

- Each dancer wears an individual design showing difference in people. Costumes are personal wear rather than outdoor wear – shows inner personal life of people.
- Colours are oppressive and gloomy like the poem.



# Lighting: Types

The lighting for *Infra* helps to create the subterranean world that *Infra* implies. Whilst everything 'above the surface' remains black and white, the world below tells a different story.

Wash:



Sidelight:



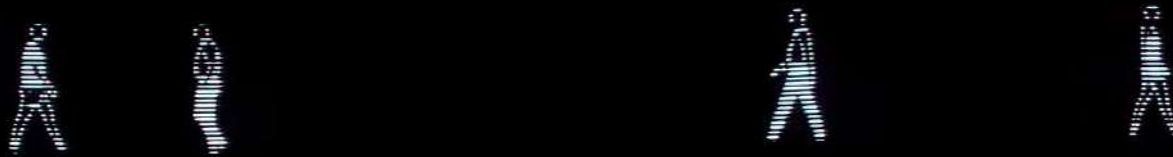
Spotlight:



Rectangular light windows (zebra crossing):



# Lighting sections we look at:



1: white wash with blurred edged, mid intensity, down-stage. Upstage in darkness.



3: green wash in ellipse shape upstage: blurred edges

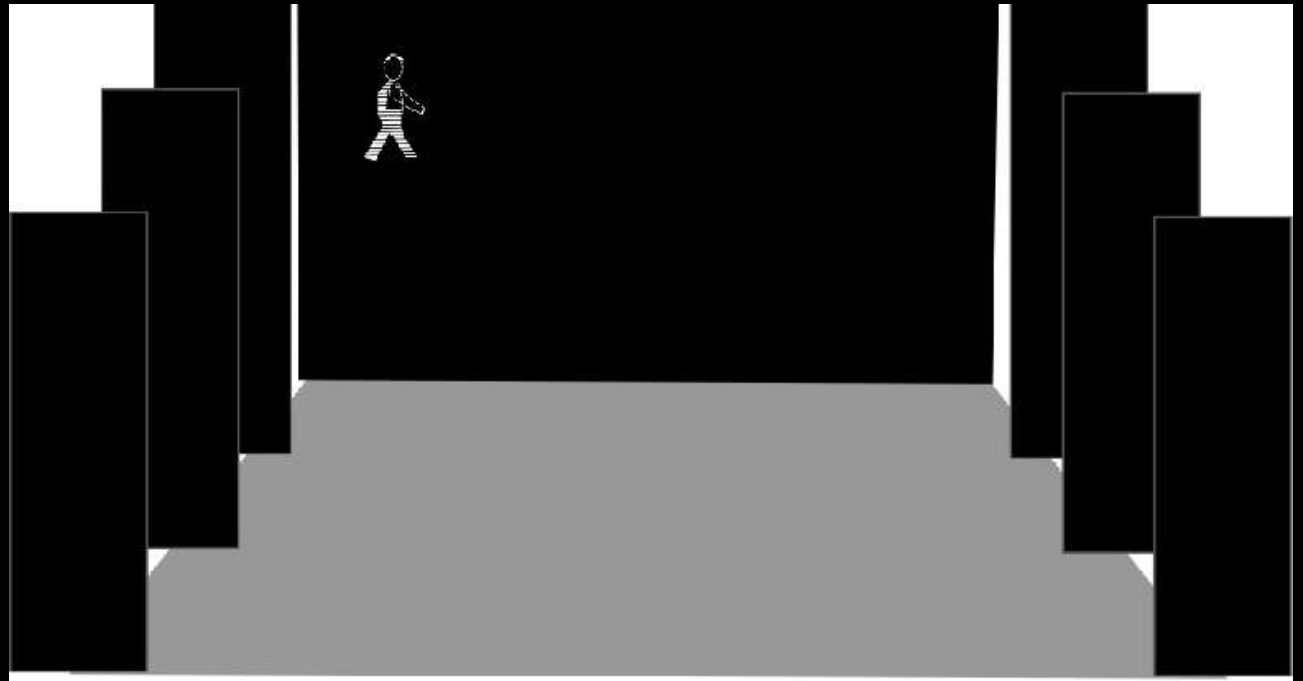
# Lighting sections we look at:



4: 6 rectangles of white light in a line on the floor

7: low intensity blue sidelights then white sidelights only for crowd

## Set and Props:



A grey dance floor, black tabs and black backcloth. An LED screen is seen high up on the backcloth, showing a variety of LED people in black and white walking to and from. The front curtain is black, completing the monochrome effect.

- The walking figures carry briefcases at times, perhaps indicating office workers.
- The number of figures echoes the number of dancers on stage, beginning with one and building until a large crowd of figures appears in Section 7.
- The final section has no figures at all.