

## Tactile Theatre



## Outline of Actions

When the audience arrives at the box office, they are handed a sachet with a smelling substance and are being told that there is a second person in the building with the same sachet and that s/he has to find this person.

The theatre is only lit dimly. Magical sounds and scents fill the air. Over the audience's head hangs a net of Christmas lights. In the centre stands a cauldron, from which people are given a drink. High up in the theatre hangs a ritual emblem, underneath stands a shrine. In the four corners of the room hang hourglasses, from which coloured sand is running into receptacles on the floor. Animators are using the sand to draw an outline of a Mandala on the floor.

Audience members are given a drink from the cauldron. They are approached individually and have a ritual emblem stencilled on their hand with henna.

The animators come in with two long ropes and herd the audience together. They have to hold the rope with their left hand. They are blindfolded and split up into several smaller groups. They venture on a journey through the adjoining rooms and corridors, guided by their animators.

In each space, they hear unusual sounds and smell specific perfumes. As they file down a long corridor, they are requested to touch the wall with their right hand. Along the wall of the corridor hang various tactile panels covered with sand, aluminium, sponges, velvet etc. They are led through a room that has been cooled down to 5°C. Metallic sounds fill the air. Along the wall hang aluminium panels, on which various words have been sprayed and fixed with sand. The audience have to guess and read out the words. The audience enters a room with a temperature of 30°C. Sounds and smells like in a jungle waft through the room. From the ceiling hang various ropes and strongly smelling branches with leaves.

The audience members are led, one by one, through a warmly lit tunnel where each step produces a strong echo. At the other end they re-enter the main theatre space, where they have their blindfolds removed.

As they settle in the space, they are anointed with a scented balm and led to the cauldron. They are given a drink and handed a piece of sweetbread. Two masked figures appear and perform a dance, which eventually destroys and disperses the Mandala on the floor.

## Credits

**Animators:** Tiffany Barnwell, Ben Kersley, Jenny Camillin, Emily McGill, Katie Carr, Bamy Meats, Chris Gunter, Matt Pelly, Krsna Harilela, Heidi Schmidt, Raine Heidenberg

**Stage Manager:** Jenny Camillin

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Julie Beardall

**Set Design:** Katie Carr, Catherine Cartwright

**Lighting:** Tiffany Barnwell, James Laney

**Sound:** Barny Meats, Ben Kersley, Paul Mallaghan

**Costume:** Chris Gunter, Raine Heidenberg

**Odours:** Krsna Harilela, Emily McGill

**Food:** Ben Kersley, Heidi Schmidt

**Publicity:** Jenny Camillin

**Course tutor:** Günter Berghaus

This event forms part of a second year unit on Ritual Theatre.