

Belle - A Performance of Air

Relaxed Performance Show Information

Show Information

- BELLE is a multimedia performance experience using sound, light and projection to create a mesmerising multi-sensory experience
- The all-female cast celebrates female strength, agility and unity. There is no storyline, and the show aims to connect with the audience through energy and emotions using movement. It celebrates and explores aerial performance and the rhythms of the human body, how we are connected to each other and to our ancestors
- The show has bright slow-moving lights that interact with different aerial apparatus that spin and rotate for the performers to fly. There's occasional light strobing, and a strong and continual use of haze. A dynamic soundscape is loud and intense, and emotional at times
- Shining light on thick haze creates a swirling curtain or wall of light that seem to move and shift around the stage, almost like a cloudy sky or a view from under water. Performers and apparatus will gently but suddenly appear in and out of the haze

Location: Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre, Aotea Centre. Staff can direct you to the correct entrance for finding your seat.

Time: 2pm, 55 minutes, there is no interval. Once the show starts, there is a lockout policy until approximately 7 minutes have passed. Lockout means you'll need to wait outside the theatre until an usher lets you in to find your seat.

Pre-show Demonstration

Before the show starts, we will have a pre-show demonstration on stage at **12:30pm**. This will introduce the lighting, sound and a few elements of the show. We will talk about what the show will be like and how the relaxed show will work. This document will give you even more details about the show.

We will meet in the Aotea Centre near the main entrance doors to the building, close to the box office. Katie, your guide for the pre-show demonstration, will be wearing a black baseball cap.

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Relaxed show features

During the relaxed performance, the audience may come and go, move around, visit breakout spaces, and use comfort and fidget items. If you need to leave during the show and then come back, please return to your same seat. Please don't go onto the stage with the performers. The theatre doors will remain closed, but you can leave the theatre at any time. To come back into the theatre, an usher will let you in when it's safe to return. You might have to wait outside the closed doors for a moment, as the artists go into the audience area during one part of the show. If you'd like assistance to come and go, please let theatre staff know.

A breakout space with seating and plenty of space away from crowds and noise is available upstairs on Level 5.

If you need to use devices for accessibility, please put them on silent. At the start of the show, the whole audience will be reminded with an announcement that during the relaxed performance it's ok for the audience to be themselves.

Lighting

- The show starts in darkness until a strong light pierces through to reveal digital silhouettes of the cast
- Beams of white light often shine directly toward the audience and may shine into your eyes. Sitting in the balcony may put the lights above your eyeline. These lights are very bright, and sunglasses may be helpful.
- Strobe lights are used at some moments in the show, as well as flickering projections
- There is a use of extremes of light and darkness, and the auditorium will be made as dark as possible to highlight the stage lighting
- We will demonstrate the strobe, as well as some of the most intense/dramatic lighting states, during the preshow demonstration

Sound

- Preshow music is playing when you arrive into the auditorium and is gentle, like a deep orchestral hum
- The show begins with a deep, sudden and resonate booming that you can feel in your seat. There are five total booming notes as the curtain slowly rises
- A violinist will appear and disappear in several different places on the stage throughout the show
- A vocalist will sing powerful, beautiful music into a handheld microphone at a couple points in the show

- The soundscape can be intense and emotional, and the loud deep bass notes vibrate through the building
- At one point, there's a soundscape of overlapping voices all woven together
- The volume is loud, and earplugs or headphones may be helpful
- In the preshow demonstration, we'll play the most intense/loudest parts of music used during the show

Aerial acts / show apparatus

- All the aerial acts are performed by professional circus and dance artists, and there are many safety systems in place
- A team of 3 riggers work behind the scenes making the apparatus go up and down and they are watching the artists at every moment to make sure they are happy and safe
- If an artist does not feel safe, or they are tired or feel an injury then we use both visual signals and our voices to communicate that we do not want to do the act
- The movements of the show are slow, gentle and powerful, accompanied by strong lighting and loud sound. The performers move gracefully and deliberately

Audience Interaction

There is no audience interaction.

Triggers

- Strobe lights, haze, and lights shining in the eyes
- The auditorium seats are somewhat rough, so long sleeves and trousers may be helpful

Want to know more?

Email the Access and Inclusion Coordinator Hannah at access@aaf.co.nz or call/text 022 1239 759.