

OUT OF WATER

HELEN PARIS & CAROLINE WRIGHT

8-10 August 2014
Portobello Beach
6.30am & 8.30pm each day (dawn and dusk)

artsadmin.co.uk/projects/out-of-water



ALL PHOTOS BY TONY MILLINGS

*The singers are out of breath
The swimmers are out of their depth*

On the beach, the sea glistens mirage-like in the distance. In the early morning light a group of singers and swimmers strike out towards the water's edge until they span the wide expanse of beach. They each look towards the sea, eyes intent, focused on the horizon, searching for something. Is somebody lost at sea?

Stories of endeavour, of swimming, of sinking, interweave with haunting music, lifeguard drills, calls for help and struggles for breath as the audience is tugged down the beach to the sea.

Out of Water is an outdoor performance for beaches and watery locations featuring singing, swimming and music composed by Jocelyn Pook, broadcast live and received through headphones.

PREVIOUS TOUR DATES

August 2012 Holkham Beach, Norfolk as part of London 2012
June 2013 Fort Funston Beach, San Francisco as part of PSi

**ARTS
ADMIN.**

QUOTES

"I just wanted to drop you a note to say how magical and wonderfully appropriate I found Out of Water yesterday morning. Holkham Beach is probably my favourite place on earth and I thought the whole work, the atmosphere it created, the sincerity and commitment of the performers created a really fitting piece."

Audience member, Norfolk



"Out of Water took me back to those few but powerful performances that I have seen that have required some kind of pilgrimage... I remember waking up at 6am as a student to stand in line for a ticket to Peter Brook's Hamlet at BAM.

The sound track was beautiful. I remember crying because of the sheer beauty of it all, the beauty of people just staring at the sea, the beauty of the sun descending, the beauty of the sky draped with pink, violet, orange and blue, the beauty of the music, it was just too much at moments and so my body had a visceral reaction to the beauty. The attempt and the desire to take it all in overwhelmed me. It was, I think of it now, what Kant calls the sublime, "whereas the beautiful is limited, the sublime is limitless, so that the mind in the presence of the sublime, attempting to imagine what it cannot, has pain in the failure but pleasure in contemplating the immensity of the attempt"

Sebastian Calderon, Audience member, San Francisco



"I felt like I was part of this community of performers and people I could trust and love and perhaps support"

Sukanya, Participant, San Francisco



"I loved being taken for my hand and walked to the sea when I experienced it as an audience member. It was very intimate and ritualistic for me...a sense of joy and a strong feeling of sharing"

Audience member, Norfolk

"It was a very enjoyable experience, the music and singing were superb, overlaid with the thoughtful prose, expressed with such feeling at appropriate times. Such a well planned creative piece of work contributed to such a fascinating project! I thought it was really great to work with everyone in such a professional manner, with such high quality of music and choreography. This contributed to feelings of confidence, inspiration and encouragement."

Gil Stead, Participant, Norfolk

"Like the tide itself, the audience washed in upon the performance, and, later, washed away. The eventual departure was painful, as the performers had us enfolded into their quiet, seemingly fragile ceremony. They had held our hands. They had guided us. They had shaped us into a V and stood next to us. They had created uplift, and we were afloat in the mystery of their songs. "Heave ho, my dear. Heave ho, my darling." The earlier poem of the narrator echoed above the water, now a beautiful melody, now a shared, communal experience. Our feet carried us mechanically forward as our thoughts extended behind us—washed out with the tide, "the ebb and flow of it." We parted and we did not part: we carried the experience with us as we moved on, and as we moved on we stayed within the experience. Did we, in fact, abandon the performers in the ocean? Even now, weeks later I feel as though a part of me is still with them."

Becky Chaleff, Audience member, San Francisco





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A video of the Holkham performance can be seen here:
youtube.com/watch?v=vCm70xNNrPc