



Supporting Complicité



Selection of make-up
1 x large applicator
1 x small applicator
1 x small brush
1 x small comb
1 x small mirror
1 x small pencil
1 x small brush
1 x small comb
1 x small mirror
1 x small pencil
1 x small brush



The world is black
1 x small brush
1 x small comb
1 x small mirror
1 x small pencil
1 x small brush
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1 x small mirror
1 x small pencil
1 x small brush



Selection of make-up
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Complicité

About us

Complicité is an international touring theatre company, fuelled by the spirit of collaborative curiosity. We are united by an integrity of practice, depth of thought and a willingness to do things differently. We believe that creativity is core to human identity, and our art is shaped by the deep interconnectivity between humanity and nature.

Founded in 1983 by Annabel Arden, Fiona Gordon, Marcello Magni and Simon McBurney, the Company is now led by Artistic Director McBurney. Complicité began life as a collective and this spirit of collective enquiry continues to drive our work. The Company is famous for making theatre through extensive periods of research and development which bring together performers, designers, writers, artists and specialists from diverse fields – a process now known simply as ‘devising’. This collaborative process has led to the creation of a distinctive, visually rich stage language, which layers physically beautiful performances and tightly choreographed ensemble work with innovative lighting, sound and video design.

Alongside devised theatre pieces, literary adaptations and revivals of classic texts, the Company works across art forms and media – creating dance works, film, online experiences, operas, radio dramas and installations. What characterises this diverse slate is an intellectual rigour and a ceaseless drive towards new possibilities of form. We are fascinated by the potential of new technologies, embracing them at the heart of the art we create.

We take our responsibility as one of the UK’s most celebrated theatre companies seriously and are motivated not solely to create our own productions, but also to share what we’ve learnt and created with other artists, particularly those currently underrepresented in the arts. The familiarity of our name enables us to reach communities that have lower levels of arts engagement – an estimated 35,000 pupils study Complicité in UK schools every year, for example – and through our engagement and education work, we empower our communities to embrace collaboration and risk-taking as vital to a creative, fulfilling life.

Action on the climate crisis is a thread running throughout our work. We are committed to exploring this in the art we make and how we make it. We are playing a leadership role for the sector through our work on the Theatre Green Book, a practical toolkit for more sustainable theatre making and touring that is quickly being adopted across the sector as the gold standard for best practice.

complicite.org

*clockwise (from top): Shun-kin © Robbie Jack,
A Disappearing Number © Joris-Jan Bos*



Our work



Our major stage productions and artworks for other media, created by Simon McBurney, sit at the heart of what we do. We always challenge ourselves to make work of exceptional quality and ambition.

Some current and recent examples of our work:

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead (2023)

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead is a new work for theatre based on Nobel Prize winning author Olga Tokarczuk's novel of the same name. Part whodunnit, part comedy, and part blistering poetic manifesto for the rights of animals and the environment, the play features legendary stage actor Kathryn Hunter as protagonist Janina, part of a ten-strong ensemble.

The show has been made possible through a co-production partnership of twelve of Europe's leading theatres. After playing to standing ovations in Plymouth, Bristol and Oxford, it arrives at the Barbican for a sold-out two-week run from 16th March, before touring the UK, Europe and the world throughout 2023 and 2024.



“A masterful, boundary-blurring call to activism... nothing short of sensational” ☆☆☆☆☆

– Bristol 24/7

Watch production trailer here. ▶

clockwise (from top): *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* production photos © Camilla Adams



The Dark is Rising (2022)

The Dark Is Rising is a 12-part dramatisation for radio of Susan Cooper's classic 1970s novel for families, directed and adapted for radio by Simon McBurney with co-adaptor Robert MacFarlane (best-selling author of *Underland* and *The Lost Words*). Beginning on Midwinter's Eve, the story follows 11 year old Will as he is drawn into an otherworldly battle against the forces of 'The Dark'.

"I'm already obsessed with the beautiful, atmospheric adaptation of *The Dark is Rising* in its mixture of erudition and entertainment – exactly the sort of thing that the Beeb should be making."

– The Telegraph

The Dark is Rising R&D sessions © Camilla Adams

Starring Toby Jones and Harriet Walter, with original music by actor and singer-songwriter Johnny Flynn, the production uses innovative binaural sound technology – developed by Complicité in *The Encounter* – to create a fully immersive, '3D' experience of Will's world.

The dramatisation premiered on BBC World Service on 20th December 2022, with an 'omnibus edition' broadcast on Radio Four from 26th December. The podcast version dominated the airwaves over the festive period: it was Apple's 'Podcast of the Week' and stayed at #1 in their Fiction charts over Christmas and New Year in 26 countries around the world, including UK and USA. It received rave reviews across the national press; the podcast has been downloaded over 1 million times and the BBC has made a 'conservative estimate' of 10 million listeners.

Listen to the podcast on BBC Sounds here. ▶

The podcast is best experienced with headphones.



Figures in Extinction [1.0] (2022)

Figures in Extinction [1.0] is the first part of a major new collaboration between Director Simon McBurney and Choreographer Crystal Pite, who will work together over four years to create three new works, each developed in response to the last. This episode confronts what it means for artists to make work in an era of mass extinction, responding to the question of how to bear witness to what we are losing.



Figures in Extinction [1.0] © Rahi Rezvani

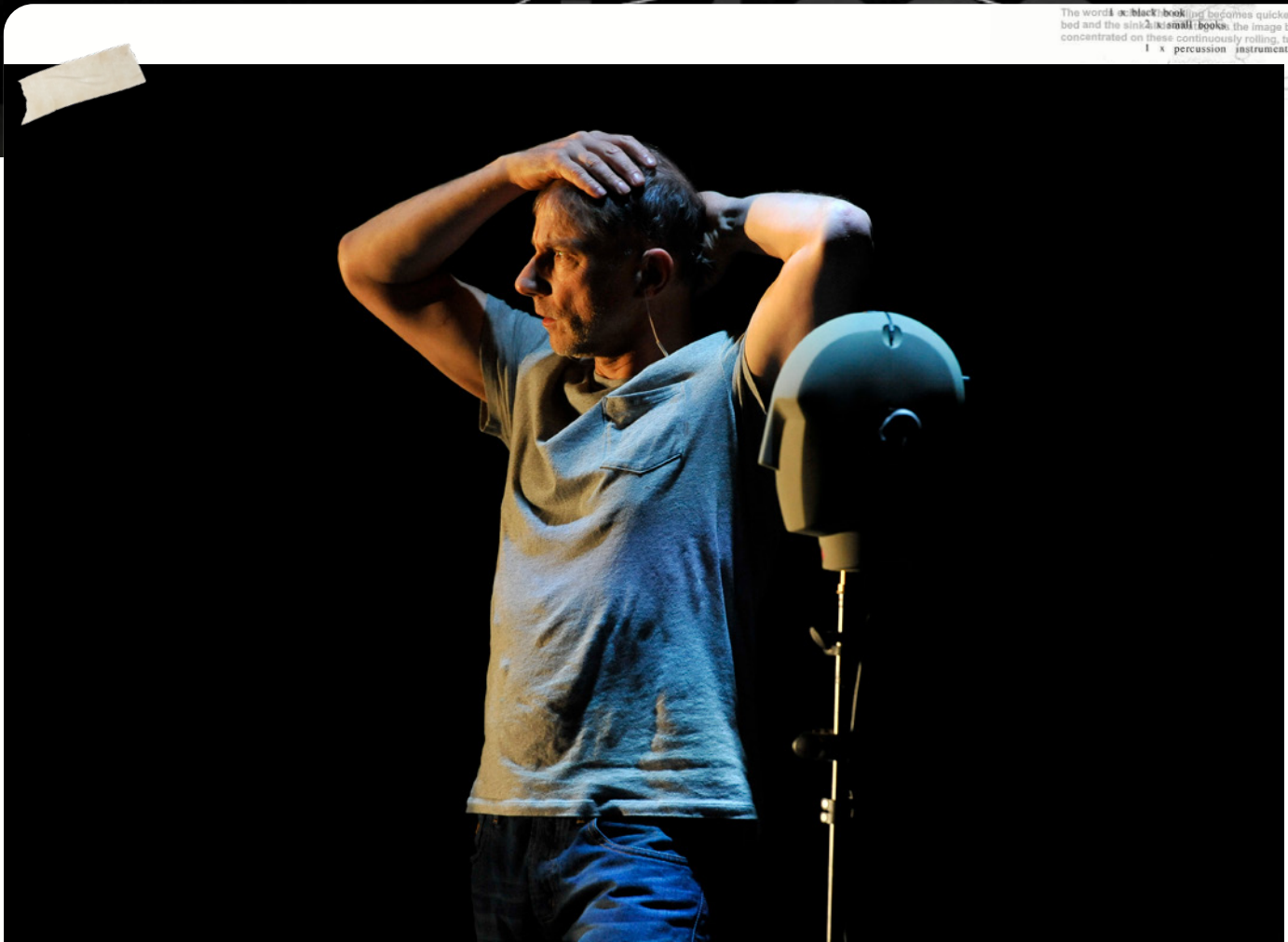
Winner of a prestigious Swan Award (Netherlands Dance Oscars), the journey will culminate in a major new commission for Factory International (formerly Manchester International Festival) in 2025.' to: 'The first part has already won a prestigious Swan Award. The journey will culminate in a major new production in 2025'.

A Co-Production between Nederlands Dans Theater and Complicité.

“*Figures in Extinction [1.0]* made an indelible impression. A hallucinatory and wry spectacle, dancers take on the role of extinct animals and portray melting ice caps and underwater life in a phenomenal way. An overwhelming total experience which echoes long in the mind.”

[Swan judging panel](#)

[Watch production trailer here.](#) ►



The Encounter (2016)

'Top 20 Best Theatre Shows of the 21st Century'

- The Guardian

"A psychedelic, immersive journey into the nature of human consciousness... incredible." - Time Out

Inspired by the book *Amazon Beaming* by Petru Popescu, this multi-award-winning solo show follows the story of Loren McIntyre, a National Geographic photographer who found himself lost among the people of the remote Javari Valley in Brazil. Directed and performed by Simon McBurney, the audience wore headphones to be immersed in a 3D, ever shifting soundscape, conjuring McIntyre's astonishing journey to the edge of human consciousness.



The production toured around the world, winning awards including the Herald Angel Award (2015), The Evening Standard Award for Best Design (2016), The Knights of Illumination Award for Best Projection (2016), Stage Award for Innovation (2017), Special Tony Award for Sound Design (2017), Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Solo Performance (2017).

Simon McBurney in *The Encounter* © Robbie Jack,
Amazon 3 © Chloe Courtney

Supporting other artists (Mudlarks)

Through Mudlarks, we share what we've learned and created at Complicité, helping other artists to increase the ambition of their work significantly.

Our newly launched **Mudlarks: International Residency** pilots in March 2023, with 10 participants supported to spend a week working on a project of their choice at Hawkwood College in Gloucestershire. The residency prioritises artists with an interest in the climate crisis, and will connect them with international mentors to support their work.

At the same time, we're launching our **Mudlarks: Young Devisers scheme**, a week-long free training programme for 18-29 year olds facing socio-economic barriers to accessing formal drama training. Running at the Barbican for a week in March 2023, we hope to develop this in to a year-round programme.

Through **Mudlarks: Supported By** we offer fuller, bespoke support to projects we believe in.

Recent examples include:



Fehinti Balogun's *Can I Live?* (2021)

“As innovative as any piece of theater to emerge during the Covid-19 era... an explosive mix of spoken word, animation, hip-hop and dialogue.”

– the New York Times

Why don't we talk about it? Fehinti Balogun asks this urgent question and offers an invitation in *Can I Live?*, a vital digital performance about the climate catastrophe, sharing his personal journey into the biggest challenge of our times. Weaving his story with spoken word, rap, theatre, animation and the scientific facts, Fehinti charts a course through the fundamental issues underpinning the emergency, identifying



the intimate relationship between the environmental crisis and the global struggle for social justice from the perspective of a young Black man.

Filmed during the pandemic on the main stage of the Barbican, the film received extensive press plaudits and went on to be the only theatre piece presented as part of the official COP26 programme in Glasgow.

In 2023, with the support of the Doc Society, we are mounting a grassroots engagement campaign around the film, with a series of 25 live screening events in community settings.



Dickson Mbi's *Enowate* (2022)

A dancer of extraordinary power and grace, in *Enowate* Dickson Mbi summons multiple identities in this mesmerising solo performance inspired by a life-changing journey to his ancestral home in Cameroon. The production premiered at Sadler's Wells in October 2022.

Complicité supported the creation of the work with Simon McBurney acting as 'mentor' for Dickson. We will continue to work with Dickson on his new project.

Dickson has been nominated for a 2023 Olivier Award for 'Outstanding Achievement in Dance' for the production.



“Mbi uses his physical presence ... to explore identity and heritage at a level part-animistic, almost molecular. An elegant, precise and sinuous performer.”

– The Reviews Hub

Dickson Mbi © Nick Thornton Jones & Warren du Preez



Kandinsky's *Winston Machine* (2023)

Led by past Complicité collaborator James Yeatman (director) and Lauren Mooney (dramaturg and producer), Kandinsky is an internationally renowned theatre company making intelligent, visual and emotionally arresting devised work.

Their latest production – a state-of-the-nation drama about living with nostalgia for the 1940s – tours in Spring 2023. We have supported them to further develop the ambition of the show following its 2022 premiere.

We're also currently supporting the development of Dead Centre's adaptation of *Deaf Republic* by Ukrainian poet Ilya Kaminsky and Paula Varjack's new multimedia work, *Control: Me, You & Janet*, inspired by Janet Jackson.



Nathaniel Christian and Rachel-Leah Hosker in The Winston Machine
© Tristram Kenton/the Guardian

Learning and Creative Engagement

Devising and collaboration form the foundation of our work; we encourage playfulness, risk-taking and a willingness to fail. We work with participants of all ages and levels of experience, travelling the world to share our practice with students and theatre professionals alike.

We believe that the arts are not an add on, they are not a luxury, they are not for the few.

Learning

Education has been at the core of Complicité's practice for decades and we are proud to be a 'leading practitioner of devised theatre' on all GCSE and A Level courses in the UK, reaching an estimated 35,000 students annually. Led by Complicité's Associates – highly experienced devising performers – our projects designed for schools offer teachers and students a chance to experience and learn about the Company's collaborative processes, which have play and risk-taking at the core. We offer:

- **'Devising in the Secondary Classroom'** – which combines CPD training for teachers to develop their toolkit for teaching devised work, alongside a workshop with students to embed this practice
- **'A Complicité Journey'** – an in-depth project through which we form long-term relationships with schools over a number of years. Currently we are focussed on five state schools in Brent with a high percentage of EAL (English as an Additional Language) students. Each year pupils take part in the creation of a new, devised performance inspired by our shows.
- A wide range of **digital resources** including free education packs associated with our productions, and access to high quality films of past Complicité shows.

Creative Engagement

Complicité Creative Engagement produces work that develops and expands upon ideas from the Company's main productions or current focuses. These projects have taken place all over the world with people of varying interests, abilities and backgrounds, from professionals and students, to young people and community members both within and outside of the theatre community.

Recent projects include *Grief Chorus* (2022), which saw us bring together a community choir from diverse backgrounds to explore how song can be a powerful tool in addressing grief; and *Everything that Rises Must Dance* (2018), a large scale participation project for up to 200 women at a time which created a 'living archive' of female movement.



clockwise (from top):
Everything that Rises Must Dance © Ali Wright,
Schools © Sarah Ainslie,
Grief Chorus © Sarah Ainslie



Simon and Marcello © Sarah Ainslie

How you can help us

“One of the most frequently asked questions is – how do we create new work? The answer is slowly, with difficulty and only with support and the funding we receive.”

– Simon McBurney

We believe firmly in the power of extraordinary art of scale, quality and ambition to transform those who experience it. But in the current landscape, it is becoming increasingly difficult to make it. As a registered charity, fundraising is an essential part of our ecology.

Donating to Complicité helps us to:

- Commission and present our world-leading major productions
- Invest in the generation of emerging artistic talent through our Mudlarks strand
- Provide unique opportunities for school and community groups to participate in workshops and projects
- Ensure our work reaches the widest possible audience; in theatres and through digital interventions

If you share our view that great art elevates us all, and has a vital role to play in negotiating the biggest challenges of today, we'd like to invite you to join our journey. There are several ways you can support us and play a vital role in our future – we can't do what we do without you.

Become an:

AFICIONADO

give £1500 a year and enjoy:

- An invitation to the first night or press night party for London performances
- Invitations to other special events
- Priority booking information & ticket offers (subject to availability)
- Personal thanks in programme
- Biannual company newsletter

More info ►

Become an:

ACCOMPLICE

give £500 a year and enjoy:

- An invitation to the first night or press night party for London performances
- Priority booking information
- Personal thanks in programme
- Biannual company newsletter

More info ►

Become an:

ALLY

give £100 a year and enjoy:

- Priority booking information
- Personal thanks in programme
- Biannual company newsletter

More info ►

If you would like to discuss a one-off gift or a legacy donation, please get in touch.

We are always open to exploring corporate and commercial partnerships, and can tailor our partnership to match your business objectives.

We would love to talk more about what we do and how our relationship with you might develop – let's have a coffee.

You can contact Executive Director Amber Massie-Blomfield on amber@complicite.org | 07782222663.

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