

PURPOSELESS MOVEMENTS

By Robert Softley Gale



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Robert Softley Gale – Writer & Director

There are a few unwritten rules that come with being a disabled artist. One of them used to be that you couldn't focus too much on your own impairment – it tends to get a bit dull for the rest of the world if we drone on about it. But a few years ago I was in a room with a bunch of people who all had cerebral palsy – there was a connection between us all that I put down to having some shared experiences. The inappropriate jokes and comradery created some joyous moments, so tonight it's my desire to put some of that on stage, to see if the joy came from similar experiences, of navigating the world with cerebral palsy, or just from being.

Everything you'll see tonight has been created by an amazing team of performers, creatives and technicians – they've all been a joy to work with because of their absolute willingness to 'go there'. I'm enormously grateful to them for trusting me and for giving everything they had to this show.

Rachel Drazek – Movement Director

Purposeless Movements has been a moving adventure - a show which considers the questions and taboos around intentional movements and intentions; and the possible cavern between these two. The rehearsal room has been a wild and varied place!

Working with the cast in movement, I have come to share time and space with an incredible group of men. I asked them to work bravely and boy, did they do just that. We searched with curious hearts, minds and bodies for what was there, what might be there and what was not there. There is no map or code for this way of working - just an instinct, a thirst to share and a good sense of humour. I thank the cast for trusting this process.

A close-up photograph of a man's face and hand. He is looking intently at his open hand, which is held up in the foreground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

LESS ENTS

I hope the show offers and moves through some of the following for you : lenses through which to look; images on which to rest, question or celebrate; and moments in which to dive.

Luke Pell – Dramaturg

Purposeless movements is the description for one of a collection of symptoms labelled as Cerebral Palsy, given to writer/director Robert Softley-Gale and many others when they were growing up. The labels and language given to or inscribed upon us as people permeate, they can celebrate - our sense of self, identity, humour, humanity - and sometimes they violate.

What is it to carry those labels in life, to wear them, inhabit them, try them on, move in, out and with them. To be looked at through them and then, to look back. To tear them up, throw them up, throw them out and then, try them on for size again. Tonight Robert and the creative team, ask these questions, lift the labels, turn insides out, take a look underneath.

My work in the studio has been to listen, witness, question and notice what was occurring as this collection of creatives shared stories of life, love and laughter.

And after all the weeks of research, drafting and re-drafting scripts, rolling about, dancing, singing, smiling it seems simple to me. They have come together to share the joy of intention. What it is to move and be moved in the world, with each other, with you, tonight. Enjoy.

Cast

Laurence Clark
Colin Young
Jim Fish
Pete Edwards

BSL
Audio description

Amy Cheskin
Christopher McKiddie

Company

Written & Directed by
Movement Director
Dramaturg
Assistant Dramaturg
Composer / Musician
Musician
Lighting Designer /
Production Manager
Technical Stage Manager
Live Sound & Content Design
Michael Achtman

Robert Softley Gale
Rachel Drazek
Luke Pell
Judith Drake
Scott Twynholm
Kim Moore

Neil Foulis
Melissa Macdonald
Guy Veale
Creative Enabler
to Pete Edwards

Producer
Finance & Access
Administrator
Education & Outreach
Press & Marketing
Photography
Print Design

Garry Robson

Karen Forbes
Peter Lannon
Jane Hamilton
Mihaela Bodlovic
Greenlight Creative

Artistic Directors

Robert Softley Gale
& Garry Robson

All biogs are available on the company website

Purposeless Movements contains strong language.
All performances include audio description, BSL
and animated surtitles.



Thanks

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