Sensescapes
Sensescapes is installation based contemporary dance performance which proposes an interactive and multi-sensory experience to babies 3-18 months old and their care-takers. It is consisted of visual, tactile and auditory elements with the aim to involve its audience, trigger their curiosity and encourage their agency in landscape rich in stimuli.

*Concept and choreography: Dalija Acin Thelander; In collaboration with and performed by Kristine Slettevold, Josefine Larson Olin, Peter Mills; Music by Anja Djordjevic; Stage design by Dalija Acin Thelander in collaboration with Erik Annerborn and Jens Sethzeman*

*Co-produced by Weld (Stockholm) and Kulturhuset Spira (Jönköping), SE Supported by Swedish Arts Council, City of Stockholm and the Swedish Arts Grants Committee*
“Sensescapes builds on this by situating dance inside an installation. This space, like other immersive environments, surrounds audience members, makes use of cleverly structured interiors and ingenious invitations for them to explore, addresses their bodily presence in the environment and its effect on sense making, and teases them with the suggestion of further depths just possibly within reach”. Here, large-scale objects, such as a suspended woolen net and a fabric patchwork ‘organism’ with several tails, disrupt the theatrical convention of a fixed spectatorial gaze, emphasised by dancers who move among and around the audience. Aromas of lavender and mandarin fill the air. Music emanates from speakers hidden inside objects such as the ‘voice cocoon’, permitting a three-dimensional perception of the score as spectators move through the installation. The child is thus 'decentred' within the space, and activated as a perceiving, seeing, hearing, smelling, touching subject of experience. Sensescapes offers a shifting panoply of propositions, inviting interaction and observation in equal measure. Immediacy is heightened by the unpredictability both of the dancers' movements and the babies' physical responses.
The interrelational ecology which emerges from the placement of children and carers within a safe, immersive environment creates a community which itself reflects and embodies the performance aesthetic. As noted earlier, the aim of productions such as Sensescapes is to highlight the partiality of experience, rendering each child's perception of performance as equally valid, equally legitimate.

The audience becomes a collective of actors in their own story, emancipated from the fixed viewpoints and semiotic codes of conventional dance. By externalizing their emotions and experiences, fantasy and real in participatory play and performance, babies are freed to construct their own identities. Space, action, reaction and perception are reconfigured to encourage agency, and thus emancipation.

Excerpts from "The Emancipated Baby" by Ben Fletcher-Watson
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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Audience: babies 3-18 months and their adults
Maximum number of audience: 30 (15 babies + adults)
Duration: 30 min - performance time + up to 20 min after the performance for audience to enjoy the installation
Maximum number of shows per day: 3, minimum one 90 mins in between the end and beginning of the next show
On the road: 3 dancers, light designer, choreographer

TECHNICAL RIDER

TECH TIME

Load in and set up: 6-8 hours
Dismantle and load out: 2 hours

STAGE REQUIREMENTS

Stage type
- preferably black box
- with possibility to remove audience seats or isolate them visually with a hanging curtain covering the entire audience/seats area
Stage/performing area size
- preferable: 9 meters x 9 meters, height 4.5 meters
- minimum: 6 meters x 8 meters, height 3.5 meters

Stage walls
- preferably black or dark gray; same color on all walls

Masking and draperies
- black or gray curtains to cover all stage walls when in color other than black/gray
- hanged curtain to visually isolate entire audience area - in same color like the rest of the curtains in the space or same as the color of the walls.

Floor
- white dance floor, covering the entire stage/performing area
- preferable sprung wood
- concrete, marble or stone not acceptable
- must be cleaned prior to each performance

Temperature
- stable, between 20 and 25 degrees celsius

Audience area: is not used; needs to be visually isolated with curtain or paravanes of the same color as walls
PERSONEL

Two persons to assist with light rigging

LIGHTS

- Electricity connections to be prepared (See the light design pdf)
- Light desk to be positioned next to the/on the stage and connected
- Lower positions for the lights to be prepared (See the light design pdf)

Set up timing
1 h cutting filters and filtering the lights (on the ground)
2 h hanging the lights on the correct positions
2 h focusing lights
2 h setting the intensities and programming

See the light design pdf. Note the number of the lights can be reduced in relation to the capacities of the venue.

SOUND

We are bringing our own sound equipment; no requirements from the venue
PROPS

- Four stands: as on the photos or similar; must have horizontal bars, two minimum; height of the top bar 1.5 meters, minimal length of the bars 40cm
- Weights: 8 pieces, to secure the stability of the stands

[Dresser images]

DRESSING ROOMS

- to accommodate 4 persons
- to have stable temperature between 20 and 25 degrees in celsius
- provided with shower facilities
- provided with bath towels
- exclusively for the performers
- must be able to lock