

Forbidden Identity

TOUR PACK 2022



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



AUTIN
DANCE THEATRE

Forbidden Identity



Forbidden Identity explores the personal struggle of a Deaf child growing up in a hearing world; denied access to British Sign Language and a Deaf community.



Using street dance, tutting, mime, and sign language, Billy collaborated with Deaf dancers Ariel Fung and Ben Randall to create the piece, with narrative support and mentorship from Deaf Theatre maker, Brian Duffy and directed by Johnny Autin (Autin Dance Theatre.)

About Us

Billy Read



Born in Walsall, Billy became profoundly Deaf at the age of three. Growing up, he showed a keen interest in music and art. At age eleven Billy first tried out music, and played drums in the school band.

It wasn't until the age of 21 that Billy discovered his talent for dance. Already a big Michael Jackson fan, Billy started to learn all of MJ's moves from YouTube videos, and became a self-taught MJ impersonator. Despite no formal training, Billy utilised his self-taught skills to start down the path of becoming a dancer and an artist, forming his own Deaf dance crew, and travelling the world networking with other professional Deaf dancers.

Billy is a fresh, exciting choreographer, and an inspiring teacher of dance



<https://www.billyreaddancer.com/>



[@defmotion](https://twitter.com/defmotion)

Deaf Explorer

Deaf Explorer reveals the as-yet unheard world of artists.

We transform the autonomy and destiny of D/deaf artists. We forge radical approaches and creative opportunities to produce contemporary D/deaf culture.

Deaf Explorer are the producers of Forbidden Identity.



<https://deafexplorer.com/>



[@deafexplorer](https://twitter.com/deafexplorer)

Production Information



People on Tour: 3 Performers, 1 Stage Manager, 1 BSL Interpreter

Space Requirement: Width: 10 metre / Depth: 10 metre.
Suitable for grass + concrete surfaces.

Set: 3 small black stools

Get-in time: 10 minutes Get-out time: 10 minutes

Warm up requirements: Performers will require a warm up space and dressing room 1 hour prior to performance.

Weather: The dancers cannot perform in heavy rain as this will cause injury to the team. In the event of bad weather, performers will seek out a covered space (where available) to continue the performance. However, if conditions are too bad then the show will either be postponed until the weather improves or cancelled.

Running time: 20 minute static performance. Can be performed up to 2 times per day, with a minimum of 2 hours between each performance. Can be viewed from 3 sides.

Audience capacity: 100-250 – small scale

Sound: We require 2 x PA Speakers with adequate sound to cover audience at all levels and the performance area. The sound is operated by our Stage Manager.

Insurance: Deaf Explorer is fully risk assessed and has public liability insurance.

Parking: We require spaces for 2 cars.

Accessibility: Audio Description and Easy Read Programme Notes will be available via a QR Code and can be printed and displayed at your venue if required.

Contact Us



Image Credits: Graeme Braidwood

Deaf Explorer - Rachael Veazey
rachaelv@deafexplorer.com

Annalise Cowan
annalise@deafexplorer.com



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