

cAty wOMpu\$

by Flex Dance



Commissioned by Stockton International Riverside Festival and premiered in August 2016 **cAty wOMpu\$** is a medium-scale outdoor dance theatre production ready for touring in 2017.

cAty wOMpu\$ (translates as 'Crooked' in Hillbilly) is suitable for a family audience and features an integrated cast of dancers with and without a learning disability, autism and / or additional needs.

cAty wOMpu\$ has a stunning set with an original bluegrass soundtrack performed live.

Description of piece:

cAty wOMpu\$ is a home that has seen better days. Once this house was a place of full of laughter and brimming with the love of a complete family but things changes and those days long gone. Then that ferocious storm was the final straw, ruining the last memories of a happy past and now Pa has lost all hope.

But what about the rest of the family for whom this is their childhood home and can still remember the happy days? Can they show Pa that with a new day comes fresh hope?

Overview:

The core themes behind **cAty wOMpu\$** are:

- 1- That through adversity a family can rediscover what connects them together
- 2- Your interaction with your family is what makes the place you live a home as opposed to just a house
- 3- That those who have gone before us live on through us in our looks, mannerisms and outlook on life.

Further Details:

cAty wOMpu\$ is a physical dynamic contemporary dance piece incorporating skills from other artforms including circus and parkour.

The cast of 6 performers is made up of 4 dancers/performers and 2 musicians. The dancers/performers move around the set throughout the piece whilst the musicians remain static in one place.

The 'Pa' is the older figure, slow and heavy on the move, set in his ways. The siblings comprise of a brother and sister (twins) and a further younger sister. The twins are fast-moving, forever dancing, jumping, swinging, bouncing. This house is one big playground to them. The younger sister is the quiet member of the family, quiet and purposeful as she moves around the set. She most resembles 'Ma' who is no longer with the family and fulfils the role of 'Daddy's girl'.

An original bluegrass soundtrack guides the audience through the piece and is performed live by musicians placed in costume on the set.

The soundtrack matches the mood and pace of the piece. When those kids are flinging themselves about the house, the music is lively, driving and full of bounce. When we enter a quieter section the music is reflective, dragging its feet with the blues.

Other:

The Set is a colourful shack lifted straight out of the wild American outback made of steel, wood and junk. The piece is 26 minutes long. It can be performed up to 3 times a day in daylight hours.

cAty wOMpu5 requires a performance space of 7.5m x 7.5m. The piece can be performed by indoors and outdoors. A build time of 5 hours minimum is required. A full technical specification is available. Please email flexdance@tinarts.co.uk to request it.

Short highlights on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/188818124>

Full piece on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/183819155>

Soundtrack on SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/tinarts>

Image Gallery: https://www.facebook.com/tinarts/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1012214075558931

Fees:

The fees for the show are: 1 day - £2,950 2 days - £4,350
These fees do not include travel, accommodation and per diems. Fees are negotiable.
There are 9 people who tour in total.

About Flex Dance

Flex Dance is a professional dance company of artists with and without a learning disability, autism and/or additional needs. We work with an integrated cast to represent our inclusive approach to creating and producing great art.

Flex Dance is an Associate Artist Company with Stockton International Riverside Festival and the touring performance strand of TIN Arts, a National Portfolio Organisation based in the North East of England.

Flex Dance demonstrates how learning disabled artists can produce and perform excellent work. We create engaging dance pieces that are beyond people's expectations of what can be achieved and work with our dancers to undertake movement, skills and choreography that breaks through the walls of perception and expectation.

We bring in the best talent available to ensure we are working with the best learning disabled dancers we can access. The current cast for the new piece contains 1 dancer with a learning disability and 1 dancer with Autism, both of whom are exceptionally talented and have performed regionally and nationally.