

# Wintering

## Aimee Smith

Tour Pack



### Work Description

*Wintering* is a new contemporary dance work inspired by the fragility and strength of an iced landscape. Created by West Australian choreographer Aimee Smith, *Wintering* uses dance along with imagery and sounds collected from the Arctic environment to explore the complex relationship between humans and the natural world. This meditative and immersive work asks audiences to consider what it is to live in a changing and disintegrating world, to sit with the tension of beauty and destruction, hope and fear. *Wintering* opens a conversation about climate change not by facing the familiar politics of the issue but instead bravely attempting to reveal the subtle, emotional and disquieting nature within.

*Choreographed by Aimee Smith*

*Performed by Rhiannon Newton & Jenni Large*

*Sound composition by Ben Taaffe, Craig McElhinney & Kane Ikin*

*Costumes by India Mehta*

*Lighting design by Trent Suidgeest*

*Premiered at Arts House as part of the Next Wave Festival in Melbourne from 19-27 May 2012*

*'Aimee's choreography manages to rise to the challenge of compelling contemporary dance driven by relevant questions.. it's vital that we listen to the generation that will most keenly feel the impact of our choices' - Emily Sexton, Artistic Director of Next Wave Festival*

*'Wintering elegantly evokes a vast, unyielding landscape - coupling the bleak duet of two mirrored bodies with audio-visual hail' - Harun Morrison, Fierce Festival, Birmingham*



*'Wintering is a substantial piece of choreography... the elements combine successfully to convey... a thoughtful and affecting work for those willing to take the journey'*

*'Dancers Rhiannon Newton and Jenni Large are controlled and beautiful in their execution of Smith's choreography'*

*Susan Bendall, Dance Australia*

## Choreographer's Notes

In late 2010 I was blessed with the opportunity to voyage to the High Arctic as part of The Arctic Circle Project. Expecting to use the experience to solidify my political position on climate change and channel that into my artwork, I instead found myself overwhelmed by the immense beauty and fragility of this magnificent place. The journey for me was not a political one, but an emotional one. I battled with both feelings of beauty and destruction, of strength and fragility, and of hope and fear. I acknowledged a great sadness in myself in this space. It was this emotional landscape, very rarely spoken of, that I wanted to bring back and nurture in this work. It is something beyond the political, beyond the facts, to something more primal, more real, and perhaps holding more potential for healing than we imagine.

## Video

4 minutes of footage from the Melbourne 2012 season;

<https://vimeo.com/43583331>

OR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcdyZeneCL8>

*'It is not until it ends that the full sensory impact of the work is felt, and you are left reeling'*

*'Ben Taaffe's sound design also grows as it moves from the deep crackling of ice through to full electronica encompassing the space'*

*Jane Howard, Realtime*



# Technical Specifications

## Lighting

36 digital dimmers  
36 channel digital memory controlled desk  
12 x 240 volt par 64 medium  
24 floor stands  
12 x 1.2k fresnel (same model)  
6 x Selecon pacific profile 23-50  
6 x Selecon pacific profile MSR 45-75  
6 x dowers to fit pacifics  
Dmx control cable for dowers (50 mtrs)

**Lighting negotiable for each space**

## Sound

Stereo cd player  
Sound system  
2 x FOH speakers minimum 12 inch plus horn  
(Nexo or Meyer) but negotiable  
1 x subwoofer 15 inch  
Desk 4 channels required  
2 for cd, 2 for live musician  
Musician needs a stereo line out  
1 x stereo DI  
2 x 20 mtrs of xlr mic cable

## Projection

2 x wide angle data projectors  
2 x cradles  
2 x shutters for black out  
1 x duel head video splitter  
40 mtrs VGA data cable (4 x 10 mtrs)

## Stage

10 mtrs wide  
10 mtrs deep

**Negotiable**

## Lighting Bars

Lighting Grid / trim height  
min 5 mtrs

## Masking

Full Black flat curtains to make black box (approx 50mtrs of curtain)

## Flooring

Floor / tarkett  
10 mtrs width x 16 mtrs depth, white tarkett

1 x trestle table required, black material to cover

## Bump in, 1 day

Show opens 2nd day (matinee possible)  
1 x technician 12 hours, lighting /  
audio / projection  
2 x mechanist 4 hours, curtains / tarkett

## Bump out, half day

1 x technician 4 hours  
2 x mechanist 4 hours

## Running Time

1 hour (15 min live music followed by 45 min duet)





## Contact Details

**Aimee Smith, Choreographer**

**Mobile: +61 (0) 439 691 390, Email: [aimeesmith8@gmail.com](mailto:aimeesmith8@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.aimee-smith.com](http://www.aimee-smith.com)**

**Jenifer Leys, Producer**

**Mobile: +61 (0) 432 750 668, Email: [jen\\_leys@me.com](mailto:jen_leys@me.com)**

*'Part way through this work I began to feel very moved, somehow the meditative effect of the work had taken me to another space in which I could understand the fragility and also the beauty of the environment that was being invoked'*

*'In Wintering I felt a steady hand guide me through the piece, all the elements remained subtly aligned and well crafted, always asking for further contemplation'*

*'Wintering opened up a moving and complex emotional landscape for me that is perhaps missing from the increasingly vitriolic and combative discourse that climate change politics have become'*

*Martyn Coutts*