Shadows

Choreographer
Christopher Bruce

Stimulus
- The music - Fratres for Violin & Piano, by Arvo Part.
- The relationships between family members as they deal with the fear of an outside force.

Performance environment
End stage

Dancers
4
2M,2F

First performance
28th November 2014

Duration
12 minutes

Dance style
Neo classical fusion of classical and contemporary dance.

Structure
Semi narrative
Solo, duet, trio, quartet

Costume contributions:
- **Stimulus -** poverty - muted, faded colours suggest clothing is old and tired. Cotton fabrics suggest low status.
- **Age -** bun and tea dress suggest maturity. Ponytail suggests youth.
- **Era -** dress is 1940's design due to the puffed shoulders, fitted waist, flared skirt and floral design.
- **Gender -** Gender specific.
- **Movement -** fared skirts allow for ease of movement, and add to flow of movement when the dancers turn.

Props
Suitcases
Stools

Staging/set
Black box set
Wooden table, 2 stools and bench upstage left.
Coat stand upstage centre, with coats and hat.

Lighting contributions:
- **Stimulus -** poverty - lighting lacks colour and is low intensity.
- Fear - white sidelight creates tension, mystery and anxiety.
- **Set -** helps create illusion of door DSR.
- **Mood -** dark and sinister. Sombre and poignant.
- **Creates pathway in Son's solo.**
- **Highlights dancers**

Company
Phoenix Dance Theatre

Choreographic intent
A small family, facing deprivation and the fear of what lies outside their home.
The Holocaust could be a reading for the work, with the family waiting to be taken to a concentration camp.

Choreographic approach

1. Working with the dancers
2. Furniture used within the choreography
3. Using the structure of the music to dictate each family member's story.

Set contributions:
- **Stimulus -** family - four seats, the stools are higher for the children.
- Poverty - minimal furnishings
- Fear of what lies outside - table used as barricade, stools used as weapons.
- **Lighting -** black box set enables white sidelights to create shadows.
- **Location -** furnishings suggest family home.
- **Mood -** monochrome sets = tense, sad mood.
- **Era -** coat stand suggests tradition, bygone era.
- **Movement -** table is used for levels and incorporated in to the movement.

Aural setting
Theme and variation
Harsh, rapid violin. High pitched notes.
Softer, more fluid piano and violin melodies for the parents.
Low booming piano notes mark the end of each section.

Aural setting contributions:
- **Stimulus -** fear - music is in a minor key.
- Violin plays shrieking notes when children perform, suggesting anxiety and fear.
- **Creates variety of moods**
- **Structure -** the music changes for each section, though the main theme returns developed each time. Low piano notes mark the end of each section.
- **Character -** dynamic of each section supports each character. Anxious and angry for the children. Calmer and controlled for the parents.

Costume - Mother
Floral 1940's tea dress, pink flowers, short puffed sleeves, calf length and flared.

Fitted waist

Hair in a bun

Lighting
White side lights from both sides
One white sidelight shining from DSR throwing a diagonal pathway to USL

Suitcases are old and battered = poverty.

Holocaust victims were permitted one item of luggage per person

Costume - Father
Collarless white shirt, with faint stripes and rolled up sleeves.
Grey trousers and brown waist coat.

Costume - Son
Collarless white shirt, untucked, buttons undone at top.
Rolled up sleeves and grey trousers.

Costume - Daughter
Delicate pastel blouse with puffed sleeves.
Grey, below the knee, A line skirt.
Hair in ponytail.