

## The Brink of Starvation

My dance is a collection of movements that communicate the suffering of three starving children and the struggle they endure to survive.

### Gortoz a'ran- J'attends | Hans Zimmer

My main stimulus was a photograph taken in Malawi of two young children, one of which was clutching a dead baby. The photograph was black and white so I only used the image in the photograph for motifs, as colour was not an option. I also looked at a news report about the food matter in Malawi. My accompaniment is Gortoz a'ran- J'attends performed by Denez Prigent and Lisa Gerrard. Composed by Hans Zimmer. The track is from the Black Hawk Down soundtrack. I chose this piece as it was in another language and even though the audience is unable to understand the music, when the dance and music were brought together I found it communicated the stimulus very well and fitted the emotional status which I was trying to reach. The film Black Hawk Down due to its connection with starvation and death also inspired me and influenced my choice of accompaniment.

My dance is a duet, which communicates the relationship between the two children in my main stimulus, the photograph. I used a gesture to represent the third child in the photograph.

One motif was the idea of pushing away of food and the sharing of food.

The dancers placed their hands palm to palm and extended the arms gradually.

This motif was to communicate the bringing of food and the sharing amongst others. The dynamics are slow and strong. To develop this motif I used different levels and directions.

My second was a quick movement showing the idea of giving and receiving food.

The dancer does a circular movement followed by an extension of arm, repeating the circular movement but bringing the arm into the body covering the mouth.

To develop this motif I used repetition of the movement. I also changed level and facing so the movement was different but it related to the original.

## Structure

I used unison a lot throughout the dance which showed the relationship between the children in the photograph, I also used successive canon in one section which was very effective as it empathised the idea of hunger, due to the idea that starvation doesn't just effect on person and can continue. Solo's were a big priority in my dance as it showed the idea of being alone in life and the struggle that is in endured.

## Aural Setting

The music I have chosen is Gortoz a'ran- J'attends which is taken from the Black Hawk Down soundtrack, which is a combination of symphonic music electronic and military percussion. The music is mournfully beautiful as it flows with the sounds of the North African World and the relentless music of war. The relationship between my music and movement is mutual co existence as the sound and aural elements occupy the same space and same time.

## Appraisal

Overall I think my dance has communicated the idea of starvation very well, shows the photograph and the relationship between the children nicely. I have communicated the relationship by using different choreographic devices and present my dancers with characters that are communicated by different dynamics and movements to show the different characters. If I had more time to work on my piece I would vary the different dynamics used and also spacing and pathways used. Which overall will make my piece more interesting and successful.

If I could change anything it would be the spacing and pathways as the dance is very flat and not many pathways used. I personally like the solo phrases and the way the dancers merge phrases of unison.