

# Touch, Hear, Feel

Helen Hall

Audio  
version:



## Introduction

Touch, Hear, Feel is an immersive dance performance by choreographer and visual artist Helen Hall, BIAF's current Artist-in-residence.

Touch, Hear, Feel reconsiders the way we experience art, beyond the visual, by contemplating how we can engage our other senses. The dance piece, choreographed by Helen and performed by herself, Rachael Lindsay and Maeve McGreevy, explores the theme of touch and the felt sense.

Touch, Hear, Feel was developed in a series of co-designed workshops with the blind and partially sighted community, in collaboration with the RNIB, Open Arts and University of Atypical. Their diverse perspectives and lived experiences form the heart of the project.

After the performances in November, the set will be re-imagined as a multi-sensory installation at Belfast Central Library. An accompanying audio narrative, featuring the voices of blind and partially sighted people, will provide insights into their experiences of touch. Please see [belfastinternationalartsfestival.com](http://belfastinternationalartsfestival.com) for further details.

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### Choreographer's Note – Helen Hall

As someone who is severely partially sighted, I appreciate the importance of 'touch' within my life. During COVID, when 'touch' was on everyone's mind, and became laced with anxiety, I began to interview other blind and partially sighted people to find out how they were affected and what 'touch' meant to them. Conversations ranged from the functionality of touch, to the felt sense of touch experienced with the whole body, to the more emotional, 'human' side of touch. I became interested in how all of these factors play a large part in how we negotiate the world around us.

Touch, Hear, Feel will take the audience on a multi-sensory journey through some of these ideas and my experience as a partially sighted dancer in how I negotiate the world of a performance. The work offers experimental audio description to be more inclusive of an audience who are blind or partially sighted.

# Cast and Creative Team

Created and Choreographed by Helen Hall

Dancers | Helen Hall, Rachael Lindsay, Maeve McGreevy

Access Advisors | Andrea Hope, Josephine McCormack, Margaret Mann

Dramaturg | Hannah Slättne

Set and Costume Design | Tracey Lindsay

Set Builders | Steve Bamford, Callum Stanley

Set Painter | Kathryn Boyle

Costume Maker | Niamh Kearney

Lighting Design | Jonathan M. Daley

Voice Over | Janie Doherty

Composer and Sound Design | Rory Friers

Audio Description | Helen Hall in collaboration with Hanna Slättne

Stage Manager | Caoimhe McGee

Lighting and Sound Operator | Aaron Ross

Sign Language Interpreter | Steven Conlon

Venue Manager | Becky Turnock/Smallworld

Promotional Photography | Neil Harrison

Technical Director | Phil McCandlish

Assistant Producer | Dermot McGowan

Executive Producer | Richard Wakely

# Acknowledgements and Credits

Touch, Hear, Feel was commissioned by Belfast 2024 and developed in a series of co-designed workshops with the blind and partially sighted community, in collaboration with the RNIB, Open Arts and University of Atypical.

Helen would like to thank everyone who attended workshops and also gave their time to be interviewed. She would also like to thank those who have contributed to this project in other ways, such as their support or involvement in earlier research: Sandy Cuthbert, Eileen McClory, Suzannah McCreight, George Sloan, Rosie Mullen, Sheena Kelly, Aisling McCormick and Shannon Yea.