

Welcome to Plue, a hypnotic dance duet that takes place on Saturday 5th April at The Place theatre in London. This is a short audio introduction lasting about 5 mins, that gives you an overview of what to expect, and what to look out for. My name is Shivaangee Agrawal, and I have designed the audio description and touch tour for this performance with partially sighted consultant Lesta Woo.

Plue has been created by Eli Lewis and Joe Garbett, who describe it as a 'queer disappearing act examining visibility and intimacy'. Over the last five years of developing this show, Eli and Joe have explored complex experiences of neurodivergence, masking, changing gender identities, and a disconnect between their internal experience and how others perceive them. They have channeled these into a minimalistic and playful choreography.

Hiding behind identical grey panels, the performers reveal themselves to us via a precise and tightly choreographed series of illusions. We see both bodies as one, we see one body sliced in half, we see one body with four feet, we see heads apparently floating free of bodies. The panels are slid together and apart to heighten the illusions and further confuse us. These careful, deliberate and theatrical spectacles are nostalgic of magician shows of the past, but they communicate Eli and Joe's enquiry into how queer people feel and how they are seen, what they want to reveal, and what cannot be hidden.

Enabling these clever illusions is an equally thoughtful costume design. Jay, a non-binary person with short pink hair, bright pink eyebrows and big eyes is dressed in a neck-to-ankle velvet bodysuit. Split precisely down the middle, the right side of this bodysuit (including socks) is hot pink, while the left side is piercing blue. The outer layer of the bodysuit has a tight, medieval cut to the bust and groin areas, while the underlayer, also in velvet, boasts puffy shoulders and a formal high-neck. Joe is our other performer; he has a tightly cropped brown mullet, blue eyes and moustache. His costume is nearly identical, with only the colours swapped so that he mirrors Jay. These binary-coloured costumes allude to the strict binaries that our identity, gender, sexuality, relationship status and more are often forced into, but ironically, these pink and blue costumes unlock an infinite number of illusions as Joe and Jay meld their bodies together and apart.

In these striking costumes, Jay and Joe steal the show. Well, they are the show! The set design is explicitly minimalistic with a bare white platform that stands towards the back of a glossy white dance floor. This gleaming floor is mis-aligned with the rectangular edges of the space, and the performers use this wonkyness to further disorientate our perception of what's going on. The lighting design works to at times further sterilise the space, and at other times soften the space, travelling with the performers as their relationship shifts through intimacy, vulnerability and connection over the course of the show.

Plue is a show with a highly specific aesthetic and defined movement vocabulary, almost academic in its commitment to rigour and precision. The audio description is inspired by this tightly defined choreography, but also draws out the symbolism, imagery and metaphor underneath the show. Hopefully, in listening to the audio description, you will also get a sense of the awkwardness, tenderness and innocence that pervades the identities of our on-stage characters. There may be moments where I .. erm, make a mistake... maybe by accident, or maybe on purpose? I guess, much like the theme of this work, it's up to you to decide what's going on.

If you'd like more insight into the performance before you experience it, do book onto the pre-show touch tour which will take place at 6.30pm, before the show, where Eli and Joe, the creators of the work, will be present to add context, answer questions and perform an audio described excerpt. Please note that Plue includes moments of flashing light, bright lighting, use of LED and sudden moments of darkness and haze. We will introduce these lighting states to you during the touch tour. For more information, including how to book tickets and the full creative credits for the work, please visit www.theplace.org.uk/events/spring-25-plue.