

A Linha Curva

GCSE Dance (8236)

Anthology fact file

Choreographer	Itzik Galili has built a body of more than 70 works showing a pioneering diversity. Lighting plays an integral role, and his interest in the medium led him to design the lighting for most of his works. In 1994 Itzik Galili was honoured with the Final Selection Culture Award (Phillip Morris) for exceptional talent and contribution to dance and culture in the Netherlands. In 2006 he was knighted in the royal order of The House of Oranje Nassau.
Company	Rambert is Britain's national company for contemporary dance. Founded by Marie Rambert in 1926, the company has sustained her pioneering commitment to choreography and developing dancers as artists, leading the way for nearly 90 years. The company thrives on its unique ability to share the widest range of repertoire: works from our rich heritage as the UK's oldest dance company; new works and re-stagings by choreographers from all over the world, including those who may be less well-known in the UK, and landmark dance from the 20th century. Bold, risk-taking, agile and beautiful, the dancers combine rigorous technique and artistry with an extraordinary ability to challenge and entertain. The company is also renowned for its use of live music and is the only UK-based contemporary dance company always to tour with an orchestra.
Date of first performance	Originally performed by Balé da Cidade de São Paulo (Brasil), 2005. Rambert premiere, Tuesday 12 May 2009 at Sadler's Wells, London.
Dance style	The work is filled with rhythmic pulses and blends samba, capoeira and contemporary dance technique.
Choreographic approach	When originally creating <i>A Linha Curva</i> , Itzik Galili worked collaboratively with the dancers and nearly all of the motifs were composed from improvisation. One of the tasks set by Galili was quite simple, he asked the dancers to choreograph a very short solo (2 – 3 counts of eight) of some of their favourite moves which stayed within the boundaries of their allocated square within a chequer-board grid (see lighting) that takes up the floor space of the stage. Galili believes that you can see essences of the dancers' personalities in these sequences. Each of these sequences was named after the dancer who made it and the dancers then learnt each other's sequences to form the basis of this large ensemble work.
Stimulus	<i>A Linha Curva</i> means <i>The Curved Line</i> in Portuguese. The stimulus for the work is Brazilian culture. Galili wanted to create a celebration of the Brazilian way of life and the ability to live in the moment.

Choreographic intention	The intention behind the choreography is simply to have fun – but there are also a few contradictions, as touched upon in the title. Large ensemble sections of vibrant Brazilian inspired movement are performed in regimental straight lines, creating a sense of a samba parade. There are also a number of narrative sections that through the choreography present observations of how Brazilian men communicate with women, for example men in tribes hunting the girls as well as showing off and competing with each other.
Dancers	28 dancers (15 male / 13 female)
Duration	23 minutes
Structure	Distinct parts to the piece are made up of big ensemble dance sections interspersed with scenes that have more of a sense of narrative and character. The big ensemble dance sections involve the dancers performing a series of repeated phrases in a number of different formations that are dictated by the grid-like, multi-coloured lighting. The more narrative scenes do not feature the grid lighting effect and it is during these sections that Galili explores the competitive nature of the males and how they relate to the women.
Aural setting	The music is written by Percossa, a percussion group based in Holland. The music, which includes vocal sounds, is played live by four percussionists and is influenced by Brazilian samba music. The dancers also contribute to the vocal sounds.
Costume	Designed by Itzik Galili. Male and female dancers both wear black vests with different coloured Lycra shorts. The colours are carnival inspired and enhance the impact of the lighting. The shorts are made out of wet look Lycra and come in ten different colours. This uniform look adds to the feeling of equality in the ensemble sections. The men wear metallic disc-shaped collars that reflect the light for the opening of the dance.
Lighting	Designed by Itzik Galili. The different coloured and timed lighting creates a chequer-board effect on stage and defines the lines and spacing for the dancers in large ensemble sections of the piece. The timing and cues for the lighting is pre-programmed and so in a way dictates the speed and pace of the dancing and music.
Performance environment	End stage.
Staging/set	There is no set apart from a raised platform at the back of the stage upon which 4 percussionists perform. In one section skateboards are used to propel 5 dancers across the stage.