

***Let's Talk About Dis* by Hetain Patel**

*Let's Talk About Dis* explores issues of identity through language and movement, using English, French and British Sign Language. Rather than translating English into French or BSL, all three languages are used in different parts of the piece. Unless an audience member speaks all three languages, they are unlikely to understand exactly everything that is said. Each audience member will have a different experience as different parts become lost in translation. In this way language is used as a creative technique to underpin the themes of understanding and misunderstanding, representation and misrepresentation.

As the piece is not fully translated into BSL, we have prepared a script of all the text spoken. This is to assist and guide deaf patrons and those with a hearing impairment if desired. The times for the breakdown of scenes in brackets are approximate.

**Let's Talk about Dis, extract shown at *Close Encounters***

17 November, 7pm, Lilian Baylis Studio

**Scene 3 (around 6'30")**

Female dancer (speaks in french)- 'Bon jour, nous sommes aussi la compagnie Candoco, je suis Laura, voici Toke e voici Andrew qui sont là pour me traduire.'

Male dancer – 'Hello everyone, we are of Candoco, this is Laura, she is speaking french, my name is Toke, and I'm going to translate for Laura. Here is Andrew, who is my interpreter.

Andrew signs what Toke says.

Laura tells a story in french, making a child's voice at times.

Toke translates the story, not accurately...:

Laura says she knows what you might notice when you look at us.

And that's fine, it's just human curiosity, so don't be embarrassed.

In fact she thinks we should talk about it, so its not awkward and we can all relax.

We're an inclusive company, so some of us... are very tall... like me.

And some of us are short, like Laura.

Sorry I mean less tall... non tall. Laura is non tall

Laura thinks I'm tall because I eat lots of chick peas.

Yes chick peas.

And she wants me to eat chickpeas together with her mom.

Laura's very excited about this.

And hummus has a great effect on my body tone, my muscles are bigger....

Oh yeah it also moisturises my skin, which Laura really likes

And the hummus effects my bones and nails as well.

Say more? ... sure I can do that..

So the point is in Candoco, we have an inclusive approach to making dance.

You'll notice we have all different heights and that we move differently because of it.

And it is ok to notice this – it's who we are.

Like for example if you look at the back row, they all look non tall but actually some of them are quite tall. It's just because they're sitting down.

The three of them sit down and look at dancers at the back.

**Scene 4 (14'00")**

Dancers sign the story which will be said in scene 5.

**Scene 5 (15'30")**

Andrew (with a Liverpool accent): - 'Haha I love it! Its so funny, this story cracks me up every time... It reminds me of me auntie... How are you? Hi I'm

Andrew, and we are Candoco. And we're a company of dis... We are a company of this... this... this doesn't sound right. Tanja can I try your mic?

They change positions and mikes.

Andrew (in a french accent): - 'Hello... that's better. These mics with the cables are much better. They link directly to the sound desk. The other is wireless, things get lost..'

Tanja: - 'Hello'.

Andrew (always with a french accent): - 'I'm Andrew and we are Candoco. We are a professional contemporary dance rep company that incorporates disabled and non-disabled dance artists.'

Tanja: - 'Also we are also female and non-female, gay and non-gay...'

Andrew: - 'And white and non...'

Tanja: - 'So we're an almost fully inclusive dance company.'

Andrew: - 'So anyway I wanna talk about my auntie. '

Tanja: - 'My auntie is like my second mum...'

Tanja and Andrew carry on telling a story, alternating or speaking together. Adam, Rick and Mirjam join them and sign what they say.

My aunty took care of us when I was very small. But then she moved away to the other side of Austria. We grew very close though because I visited her every summer. And when I was 15 I moved in with my aunty so I could live nearer to Vienna to study. So we're really close. And once when we were driving home from my therapy. This was two hours we shared in the car every week. We would talk about meaty stuff. I think I was 18 years old. It was in the midst of my puberty. Getting to know about men, and about my sexuality. And so.. I talked with her about a guy, I really fell in love with. And I struggled with my sexuality, my disability and how it is to have sex with a man or whatever. And my aunty suggested.... Tanya, did you ever try masturbation? I thought, oh yeah that's so my aunty, she's just so direct, she's a real feminist, you know she wants women to be independent, and all that stuff. And also I laughed because... Yes I did! You think I have never tried that? And then, she said, if you need help with that, I have something you can try. And I said ok, I'm not sure about that. Next morning in the bathroom I saw a bag there. And I saw what was in there... And I thought alright I might just take the dildo with me and try...

Scene 6 (21'30")

Toke: - 'Did you notice the height?'

Laura starts to dance.

Toke follows her trying to interpret her movements incoherently... Andrew tries to sign:

Toke: - 'What Laura is saying is...I feel...I think...she is...she knows...what you think about us... what you see when you look at us... we should discuss this, I mean talk about this, it's all fine... please relax about it... it's about curiosity... maybe... maybe not...you noitve that my face...I'm different to Laura's... my leg is very strong... my other leg is also very strong... and my third leg is also a strong one... my nails are on the floor...and I... I eat a lot of chick peas... we can all eat chick peas...'

Laura stops dancing.

Toke: - 'I have no idea what Laura is saying. Andrew maybe you can try...'