

Accessible Description – Sense of Unity by Worldbeaters and Dundu

Before we see them we hear the beating drums of Worldbeaters. Five drummers then appear through a haze of smoke. Their costumes are white and silver with tall, geometric hats. Their faces are painted white with black eyes and black lips. They play a selection of different sized drums, all covered inside and out with LED lights that flash in time to the rhythms.

The drummers move around the audience, in and out of the crowd. They then lead everyone forward, towards a small stage. Once they are on the stage the five drummers stop playing, their heads bow and their lights go out.

We next hear the soft, metallic chiming of the mbira, an African thumb piano. This marks the appearance of Baby Dundu, a small (80cm) human-like puppet, glowing white. Baby Dundu climbs up onto the head of the first drummer, waking them from their sleep. The puppet then makes his way along the rest of the sleeping Worldbeaters, rousing them by playing with their drums or touching their faces.

Excited to meet their new friend, the drummers leave the stage, leading the audience on their journey. Baby Dundu bounces among the crowd, playfully skipping from person to person. There is also a new musical addition: the kora, an African harp,

which plays and dances with the drummer. The gentle sound of the kora is lifted by a moving PA system attached to a bicycle called a Boom Bike.

This joyful group continue to process forward, until we come to a large rope circle. At the centre of the circle is a mysterious shape, shrouded in a white, silk cloth. Wary of what lies before them, each of the drummers takes up a position at the edge. Baby Dundu cautiously approaches and climbs under the cloth.

Lights flash from under the silk and slowly the fabric begins to rise. As the cloth falls we see Giant Dundu for the first time. Similar to Baby Dundu but standing at almost 5m tall, this new puppet moves slowly and purposefully.

At first the five drummers are unsure if Giant Dundu is friendly. They cautiously approach and slowly begin to find a rhythm together. Soon musicians, puppet and audience are moving forward again. Gradually Worldbeaters move ahead, leaving Giant Dundu to explore the surroundings.

Soon we reach our final destination. The five drummers climb onto a large stage and look out across the gathering audience. Approaching from the edge is Giant Dundu. He joins them on stage and, along with the kora, dances with his new friends. Fireworks punctate their music and the show closes with Giant Dundu beating a drum.

This information is produced by Activate Performing Arts and aims to inform and support audiences planning to attend Inside Out Dorset 2021 events. There will be a

dedicated Information Point if you have any questions on the day or you can contact us if you have any further questions or feedback.

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We aim to respond to all access enquiries within 2 working days, but there may be a delay during the festival period 16th – 29th September 2021 whilst we are running the festival events.