

“Dance of the Light” - text and stage instructions

1)

The dancing area is 15 metres square with a 3 metre square podium positioned towards the centre and the back of it. In the centre of the podium is a small stool. Some dances take place on the podium itself.

Props required backstage:

On each side - crates of blue and gold costumes for Hinckley group; brown costumes for Scunthorpe group, sets of purple and red streamers for everyone, torches for everyone, white and gold streamers for disciples, changes of T shirts where necessary,

Stage left - money bags, rope, one crutch, three bandages, costume for Pilate, bowl and towel, purple cloth

Stage right - net, two crutches, three bandages, hyssop stick, spices

Behind stage - changes of T shirt for Jesus and gold robe for finale, green T shirt, cross, white cloth, red flag, large light, 4 gold ribbons

On stage - cup and loaf of bread.

Dance 1 Reel around the Sun

Backstage - all cast assemble in small groups of five to six maximum with torches unlit and hands joined. These groupings will be kept for several of the other dances.

*Order: **Wheelchairs** (Hinckley, Loughborough, Derby) - assemble in sequence at the back of the dancing area. Other groups in sequence off stage ready to come on: Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Scunthorpe, Loughborough, Hinckley.*

BRING UP HALF LIGHT ON FLOOR AREA

0.20 From the very beginning, from the dawn of time, human beings have been longing and searching for light.

Six dancers in black, enter at the beginning of the music, and dance on the floor area in front of the podium

0.45 Light to take away the darkness, of fear, of anxiety, of wickedness, of sin

1.05 Light to show the way, to give hope and purpose to their lives, to fill them with warmth, comfort and confidence

God enters and stands on the podium. Dancers exit, pick up their torches and prepare to dance on to stage with their groups.

FADE TO BLACK AND BRING UP SPOT ON GOD

1.15 This is what we have heard from him, and the message we are announcing to you: God is light; there is no darkness in him at all.

God gestures as necessary

1.40 In the beginning, God; in the beginning, God spoke; in the beginning, God said, “let there be light”, and there was

The Derby group position themselves at the side of the dancing area and at “let there be light, and there was”, they and the people in wheelchairs turn on their torches

2.10 God said: “let there be a person, persons, people for me to share my life with, share my love with.” So God made man in the image of himself; God saw what he had made, and it was very good.

KEEP SPOT ON GOD AND BRING UP LIGHT AS NECESSARY

The wheelchairs move forward and groups enter in sequence (Derby to move in front of the podium, Leicester and Scunthorpe behind, followed by Nottingham in front with Loughborough and Hinckley behind) as music picks up tempo at 2.37 and position themselves thus:

<i>L'BORO</i>	<i>L'BORO</i>		<i>HINCKLEY</i>	<i>HINCKLEY</i>
<i>LEICS</i>	<i>LEICS</i>	<i>PODIUM</i>	<i>SCUNTH.</i>	<i>SCUNTH.</i>
<i>NOTTM.</i>	<i>NOTTM.</i>		<i>NOTTM.</i>	<i>NOTTM.</i>
<i>DERBY</i>	<i>DERBY</i>		<i>DERBY</i>	<i>DERBY</i>
<i>CHAIRS</i>	<i>CHAIRS</i>	<i>AISLE</i>	<i>CHAIRS</i>	<i>CHAIRS</i>

3)

4.40 *Eight dancers in white enter up the aisle and walk round God on the podium. As the tempo picks up, they join hands and act out a dance. Remainder of dancers release hands and dance a quick marching step on the spot in time with the beat of the music, so that the torches in their hands are moving up and down all the time*

At 7.05 all dancing ceases. The white dancers place their hands in God's hands and then back away. All other dancers remain in their groups on the stage.

7.05 And God promised: "all I have will be yours; you can share your life with me, if you promise me your love and devotion."

8.25 But it was not enough

8.33 *End*

Dance 2 Lament

0.05 The promise was broken, time and time and time again, in a history of disobedience and ingratitude, a catalogue of pride, selfishness and sin, too long and painful to recall.

FADE GENERAL LIGHT AND SPOT ON GOD

God comes down off the podium and approaches each group of dancers starting with the chairs at the front. As he approaches they turn off their torches and together turn their backs on him. As he moves on, they leave the stage in sequence until God is on his own at 4.06, when the music ends. Those dancers who are to be disciples change their T shirts and prepare to enter. Jesus in gold prepares to enter.

1.15 Man turned away from God and rejected him. But God is God; he does not work like us, he does not think like us, he does not love like us. And his response to this continual rejection? To give more and more of himself, more and more chances to turn back and be reconciled, so that it could be as it was in the beginning

FULL LIGHT

2.27 But they still turned away

God approaches more groups, pleading more insistently each time. At the end, he stands alone and forlorn on the podium.

3.30 In the end, there was nothing left to give only one more thing, the most precious gift of all, the gift of his own self, his own person, his own Son.

FADE TO BLACK AT 4.00 AND THEN BRING UP SPOT ON PODIUM

4.06 *Music ends*

Dance 3 Slip into Spring

Jesus enters during the black out and silence and stands in front of God on the podium. Group 1 of the disciples enters SL in the dark, followed shortly after by group 2 SR with money bags

0.16 In the beginning was the Word; and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

SPOT ON JESUS AS HE MOVES AWAY AND BRING UP LIGHT ON EACH GROUP OF DISCIPLES AS HE NEARS THEM

God gently pushes Jesus away from him and exits once the light is off him. He quickly changes T shirts and re-emerges with group 2 of the disciples.

0.35 As he was walking by the sea, he saw some men fishing; he called them and they left everything and followed him.

As the light comes up groups 1 & 2 act out an activity - group 1 chatting, and group 2 with money bags. Jesus leaves the podium, approaches to call group 1 at 0.48 and group 2 at 0.56 and they react, leaving the props on the floor

1.30 There were others, too; he called them and they immediately left what they were doing and came after him.

5)

Groups 3 and 4 now enter and take up position on the darkened area of the stage. Group 3 work with a net and group 4 pull at a rope. They are called at 1.44 and 1.50 respectively into the centre of the stage, leaving their props behind. All dance with Jesus, who repeats his 'calling' action at 2.37 and 2.45. He calls them offstage SR with him and all exit at 3.30 Groups 1 and 3 return to SL behind the audience. Scunthorpe dancers prepare to enter in lepers' costume.

FULL LIGHT

3.43 *Music ends. Stage crew remove props*

FADE TO BLACK

Dance 4 Macedonian Morning

0.15 *Scunthorpe group enter from either side as lepers and dance out their predicament.*

BRING UP HALF LIGHT SLOWLY

0.40 *Lepers came, outcast, living apart, living in misery, shame and degradation.*

1.05 *Jesus enters SR and cures them by touching them; they react*

LIGHT ON JESUS AS HE TOUCHES EACH PERSON

1.10 *Lepers came, and he cured them*

They take off their rags, and exit as the music draws to a close

2.50 *Music ends*

FADE LIGHT AND BRING UP ON PODIUM

Jesus mounts podium and sits down. Stage crew remove lepers' costumes. Disciples prepare to enter SL and SR.

Dance 5 Lift the Wings

At 0.15 the disciples enter - groups 1 & 3 SL, groups 2 & 4 SR and sit on the podium around Jesus. He talks to them.

1.08 Then the crowds starting coming; he had cured so many, they flocked to see him, to touch him.

1.08 *Music ends. Loughborough, Leicester and Nottingham groups prepare to enter*

FULL LIGHT**Dance 6** Pedro de Zubiar

At 0.10 Loughborough, Leicester and Nottingham groups enter from each side in a rush and sit at the base of the podium.

0.30 And he set himself to teach them at some length

LIGHT ON PODIUM

Jesus begins to act out his teaching sequence. Derby group prepare to come on as sick people. At 2.24 everyone stands up and makes much excitement, exiting at 3.05.

0.40 Blessed are the poor in spirit

0.52 Blessed are the gentle

1.05 Blessed those who hunger and thirst for what is right

1.18 Blessed are the pure in heart

1.32 Blessed all who mourn

1.44 Blessed are the merciful

1.57 Blessed those persecuted for right, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

2.09 Blessed are the peacemakers

2.16 And his teaching made a deep impression on them because he taught with authority, not like their own scribes

Loughborough, Leicester and Nottingham groups stand up immediately the music changes and exit in a rush, pointing backwards at Jesus. Disciples remain on the podium

3.14 *Music ends*

Dance 7 Fr.Conry's Jig

0.02 And they brought him the sick, the blind, lame, paralysed; he laid his hands on them and cured them all.

FULL LIGHT

Derby group enter immediately from both sides. Jesus cures them and they react. Scunthorpe group enters at 2.08 and join in the dance. Hinckley group as scribes prepare to enter. At 3.00 they all exit except Jesus and the disciples, who mount the podium.

3.16 *Music ends*

Dance 8 Coast of Galicia

At 0.05 Hinckley group enter and parade around Jesus. Disciples begin to look frightened. Jesus points at scribes

0.20 Beware of scribes and all who like to walk about in long robes

Jesus rushes off the podium, attacks the scribes and pushes them

0.40 Pray in secret

0.58 Fast in secret

1.15 Give in secret

1.30 Live in quiet

Jesus tears off their robes and casts them to the ground in anger

2.30 If anyone wants to follow me, let him renounce himself

Jesus and the disciples exit SR at 3.00. The scribes pick up their robes, put them back on and huddle together. Disciples split up and prepare to re-enter from both sides.

3.12 Then the chief priests and scribes began to find some way of doing away with him; they were afraid because the people were carried away with his teaching

LIGHT ON SCRIBES

They exit at 4.20. Jesus prepares to return with disciples. All the groups pick up purple streamers (furled) and prepare to enter.

4.41 *Music ends*

DIM LIGHT

Dance 9 Dun Briste

At 0.10, Jesus and disciples enter and mount the podium. They sit down. A cup and some bread are placed at the back of his stool before the performance begins.

0.32 On the first day of unleavened bread, they gathered to eat the passover

BLUE LIGHT

1.07 I tell you solemnly, one of you will betray me

Judas stands, reacts to Jesus' promptings and slowly leaves SR. Everyone looks at him

LIGHT ON JUDAS

Jesus picks up the bread on a plate. breaks it and hands it to them individually

SPOT ON PODIUM

1.45 This is my body given for you

Once this is complete, he picks up the cup, offers it and then gives it to each of them. They drink

2.18 This is my blood shed for you

Pilate, Barabbas and two guards prepare to enter. One servant holds a bowl and cloth. Dancers with purple cloth prepare to enter after crowd. The cross is prepared backstage.

3.05 When psalms had been sung, they left for the Mount of Olives

FULL LIGHT

Jesus places the cup behind the stool and leaves the podium, walks around with the disciples, returning to it for the agony in the garden

3.40 Stay here while I go and pray

The disciples fall asleep on the corners of the podium and Jesus comes forward to act out his agony on the floor area. Judas prepares to enter

SPOT ON JESUS

3.52 *Music ends*

Dance 10 Kinsale

0.18 Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass me by

Jesus begins to dance out his agony

1.30 *He returns to the disciples to wake them*

Could you not stay awake one hour with me?

They get up

1.52 *Judas enters SR, embraces Jesus at 1.58, backs away and exits. He changes his T shirt to black.*

FULL LIGHT

2.10 *The two guards enter SR and take Jesus. The disciples come off the podium and stand directly behind it. The whole crowd enter slowly with their furled purple streamers, and group themselves around the podium. As they do so, the disciples fight to get off and lose themselves in the chaos. Jesus is brought back on to the podium*

2.30 *Pilate enters SL and the servant carrying bowl and towel. Barabbas comes on SR and mounts the podium*

2.58 *Pilate points to Jesus three times in sequence with the music*

3.06 *Pilate points to Barabbas. Crowd begin threatening dance on the spot*

3.16 *They point at Barabbas, moving in time with the music*

3.24 *They give the thumbs down to Jesus*

3.26 *Pilate washes his hands, throws away the towel in anger and exits SL with servant*

3.45 *Dancers with purple garment enter and parade it round*

4.15 *They mount the podium and put the garment on Jesus. Crowd continue threatening behaviour. Cross brought on at the back ready to be raised up*

4.38 *Dancers with cloth move in on Jesus in time with the music and again at 5.23 and 5.32*

5.38 *Cross raised up. Garment dropped around Jesus. and then removed. Cross placed on him by guards*

5.50 *Jesus walks off podium and begins journey to Calvary
Crowd clear a lane for him to walk among them as they taunt him*

6.46 *Jesus and the guards mount the podium. He stands on the stool wrapping his arms around the cross*

LIGHT ON JESUS ALONE

7.15 *Music ends. Dancer with hyssop stick prepares to come on SR*

Dance 11 The Storm

LIGHT FLASHES ON AND OFF

0.15 *The crowd unfurl their streamers and wave them at him*

0.44 *The dancer approaches with the hyssop stick, places it on Jesus' lips and exits SR*

1.40 *Some of the crowd mount the podium with their streamers and wave them at Jesus*

1.56 *Everyone else begins to wave their streamers vigorously. Off stage, the three women who go to the tomb prepare to enter. A white cloth is prepared*

3.30 *The crowd begin to exit and leave Jesus alone. They immediately exchange their purple streamers for red ones*

LIGHT ON JESUS ALONE

4.08 *Jesus dies. He is quickly taken down from the cross, which is removed by the stage crew.*

FADE TO DIM

4.34 *Music ends*

FADE TO BLACK

Jesus exits in the dark, and changes immediately into a white T shirt. The white cloth is placed on the edge of the podium. Three women in black prepare to enter SR with spices

Dance 12 O'Donnell's Lament

0.15 *Three women in black enter from the back and move towards the podium, looking very frightened*

DIM LIGHT ON WOMEN

0.22 On the first day of the week, before dawn, women came with spices to anoint the body

0.45 *They dance their approach to the tomb*

1.43 *They realise it is empty and react. They go in and find the cloth, show it to each other and react.*

2.22 *They dance with the cloth in turn and then together*

BRIGHT LIGHT ON PODIUM

3.20 *Jesus enters from the back, and stands on the edge of the podium they stop in amazement and try to hold his feet*

3.42 Do not cling to me

He comes off the podium. They dance around him with great joy and he joins in

FULL LIGHT

4.02 This is what I told you would happen

4.40 Filled with awe and great joy they ran from the tomb to tell the disciples

They exit, running, SL looking back at him. The disciples prepare to enter

5.08 *Music ends and Jesus exits at the back*

FADE LIGHT AND BRING UP AGAIN

Dance 13 The Road to La Coruna

0.05 *The disciples enter in groups of three and space themselves around the dancing area, with their hands covering their faces*

FULL LIGHT

0.25 *They dance a dance of fear.*

1.00 *Jesus enters on the podium; they see him and are amazed. At 1.14 and 1.26, he shows them his hands and side, then leaps off the podium*

1.34 *They all join in a dance together with Jesus leaping around touching them. They end the dance by joining hands and holding them up in the air. The crowd assemble backstage in their small groups with furlled red streamers and prepare to enter*

2.22 *Music ends. Jesus and disciples remain on the floor area*

FADE LIGHT AND BRING UP ON PODIUM

Dance 14 Firedance

Jesus mounts the podium with the disciples and stands on the stool

0.35 *My little children, I shall not be with you much longer; I will send you a helper, the Spirit, to be with you for ever*

0.56 *While they looked on he was taken from them and disappeared from their sight*

FADE TO BLACK; DIM LIGHT ON EDGES OF STAGE

Jesus exits at the back when the lights goes out, and the disciples exit SL & SR . He changes into a red T shirt and picks up a large red flag. They pick up red streamers and prepare to re-enter

1.26 When Pentecost day came round, they gathered in the one room

They enter, SL & SR, mount the podium, forming a group facing inwards

LIGHT ON DISCIPLES

2.00 Suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven

They react in time with the music

2.15 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit

Jesus enters with the flag and runs around the group of disciples, who immediately react

2.58 *They begin to turn away from the circle and unfurl their streamers*

3.30 *The crowd enters in groups and place themselves at the periphery, facing inwards with streamers furled up
Jesus exits at the back and changes to gold T shirt and picks up four pieces of gold ribbon*

4.08 *The disciples break off from their groups and run around each group in the crowd waving their streamers, Each group reacts in turn, unfurls their streamers, and begins to dance increasingly vigorously. Those dancers taking part in the next dance exit discreetly and change into white T shirts*

FULL LIGHT

5.04 *All groups begin to turn outwards in swaying movement*

5.22 *Fast movement with everyone involved*

5.56 *Music ends suddenly, and everyone exits as the next piece begins. The crowd pick up their torches and prepare to re-enter*

DIM LIGHT

FULL LIGHT ON PODIUM**Dance 15** The Countess Cathleen

- 0.38** *Jesus enters and stands on the podium with his arms extended, two ribbons hanging from each wrist. The white dancers enter in two's from either side and the back and dance around him, picking up the ribbons*
- 1.52** *They remove the ribbons, leave the podium and dance on the floor area with them.*

FULL LIGHT ON FLOOR AREA

Jesus exits and changes into his robe for the finale.

- 2.25** *Music ends, and the white dancers exit. Several of them change back into disciples' T shirts.*

Dance 16 Caracena**FADED LIGHT**

- 0.10** *The crowd enters and takes up positions starting with the wheelchairs and groupings as in dance 1.*
- 0.48** *They turn on their torches and move their arms slowly*
- The light dances in my hands, glowing, warming, bringing me comfort, making me strong, taking away my fear, showing me the way - your way, Lord, your comfort, your strength, your love. Dear Lord, bring me into your light, fill my whole life with your presence, make my heart dance for joy and happiness for ever.
- 2.00** *The disciples enter from the sides*
- 2.52** *A swaying movement begins and the disciples weave in and out of everyone in time with the music*

3.54 *The tempo picks up dramatically. Jesus enters with a big light and stands on the podium waving it. The disciples join him on the podium. Some dancers enter the audience, moving up the aisles and encouraging the audience to put on their torches and join in the movement. Everyone is moving at pace*

6.32 *The music ends and everyone leaps into the air.*

FULL LIGHT THEN FADE

The cast take a bow and then exit. As they do so, the music for dance 5 is played

END