

Probe

Artistic Director: Antonia Grove



Performed by Antonia Grove

Directed by Wendy Houstoun

"You can't take your eyes off her...this is one woman who deserves to be seen."
Evening Standard ☆☆☆☆

"mesmerising ... the complexity of her auditioning/performing/being real left me
disorientated and exhilarated"
Total Theatre Review

"This mistress of disguise will set your pulses racing"
Bristol Culture

"one of the most inspired endings I have seen for years"
Fringe Guru ☆☆☆☆

"calls to mind the paintings of Matisse"
The Observer (on May)

"a deadpan ditziness worthy of the young Katharine Hepburn"
Daily Telegraph (on Magpie)





Antonia Grove (twice nominated for Best Performer at the National Dance Awards, and winner of a Time Out Award) now performing in Probe's critically acclaimed solo show **Small Talk** - a daring and virtuosic display of disguise and derangement created in collaboration with **Wendy Houstoun**.

Back on the road after performances across the UK in 2012 and 2013, including a run at Soho Theatre in London, **Small Talk** sees Grove embodying the personae of a series of American movie actresses whose words are fed to her through earphones. In a succession of staged events, Grove strives to fulfil the chameleon's desire to be all things to all people, the effort of which takes her on a rollercoaster journey through states of control, being controlled and losing control. With high class singing and full-throttle dancing, this bravura performance has all the hallmarks of a modern classic that audiences will find compelling, funny and darkly disturbing.



Video Links

Small Talk trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEmI94eAZqQ>

Small Talk excerpt

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTgtKOAklio&feature=plcp>



Probe

At the heart of Probe's work lies collaboration - and the use of movement, text and song to communicate or tell a story.

Based in Brighton, Probe was founded in 2004 by Antonia Grove and Theo Clinkard who came together as dancers, Artistic Directors, curators and producers to commission work to perform as a duo. It was born from Antonia's desire to progress artistic ideas formed through years of working as a performer with different companies and choreographers and as a theatre maker in her own right. Together Antonia and Theo produced the award-winning *Have We Met Somewhere Before?* (2006) and *Magpie* (2008).

Since 2008 Antonia has continued to develop projects for Probe as sole Artistic Director, shifting the focus on to working collaboratively with artists from different art forms. Under this vision the company has created *May* (2011), nominated for a London Festival Fringe Award, *Small Talk* (2012), and is working on a new production, *Running on Empty*, to premiere in October 2013.

Antonia Grove is Associate Artist at South East Dance and at the Merlin Theatre Frome.

Wendy Houstoun

Wendy has worked extensively as a solo performer and in collaboration with other companies and artists, notably DV8 Physical Theatre and Forced Entertainment.

Wendy's solo pieces, *Haunted*, *Daunted and Flaunted*, *Happy Hour*, *The 48 Almost Love Lyrics* and *50 Acts* have toured widely.

Antonia Grove

Antonia trained at the Rambert School before joining Rambert Dance Company. She has also danced for Random Dance, The National Theatre, Bonachela Dance Company, The Cholmondeleys, Charles Linehan Company, New Art Club, Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre, Walker Dance Park Music, Matthias Sperling, and Clod Ensemble. Antonia has twice been nominated for the Critics Circle National Dance Awards and a Time Out Live Award.



Booking Details

Touring	upon request
Performers on stage	1
Number on the road	2
Duration	60 minutes
Venue size:	Small-scale (capacity up to 400)

Cost

For information about touring costs and availability, please contact:
Elizabeth Mischler at South East Dance

Office: +44 (0)1273 696844

Mobile: +44 (0) 7963 045915

elizabeth.mischler@southeastdance.org.uk

An inclusive weekly fee including performances and workshops can be arranged by request.

Technical

Probe can get-in to the theatre on the same day as the first performance, but does require a pre-rig.

Please see Technical Specification included in this pack.

Freight

1 large suitcase to travel with performer

Contact

For general enquiries about **Small Talk** and Probe's educational work, please contact:

Zoe Manders at South East Dance

Tel: +44 (0)1273 696844

zoe.manders@southeastdance.org.uk

www.probeproject.com

@probeproject

www.facebook.com/probeproject



Outreach, Education and Workshops

Probe offers a bespoke **outreach** menu devised to support educational programmes, audience development and to suit a variety of venues and institutions. These can be tailored for youth groups, students, over 60's, pre-professionals, universities or any group by request.

Probe's **workshops** are about illuminating various working practices. They explore the role of the editor/choreographer working in an interdisciplinary manner, identifying and utilizing the strengths of various art forms, and combining them in the creation of a unified piece of work. Workshops are about adapting and adopting these methods to suit current interests, broaden one's choreographic tool kit and expand understanding of the current choreographic climate. Antonia is particularly interested in the integration of text within dance and the devising process.

Antonia Grove is also available to participate in **panel discussions** or **debates** surrounding issues such as collaboration, cross art form performance, gender politics and the place of women as Artistic Directors and makers of theatre, dance and performance.

Post show discussions are offered with every performance at no additional cost and are encouraged.

"Taut, funny, acidly unsentimental, the kind of work that new British dance does best"
Luke Jennings, The Observer (on May)



Technical Specification

The specifications below can be negotiated. *Small Talk* may be presented at venues with minimal technical capability, where agreed in advance.

Staffing

Probe's Technical manager will run sound and call lights for the show.
For shows where venue staff operates sound and lights, the same person is needed for all performances.

Probe can get-in to the theatre on the same day as the first performance, but does require a pre-rig.

Stage

Black dance floor, min 8m wide x 6m deep
White Cyc or exposed white back wall 6m x 6m min
Non / Minimal masking (although black box + masking legs required dependent on off stage aesthetic)
We prefer to perform as close to the audience as possible. Please advise if the setting line is further than 2m from the front row.
1 x small square four-legged table 70cm x 70cm (Please see photo of desired chair and table below)
2 x chairs (not matching)
PLEASE ENSURE THE SPACE IS HEATED.

Dressing Room

Iron, ironing board, full length mirror and clothes rail
Access to backstage toilet & shower facilities
Coffee & tea making facilities
2 x large bottles of still water or access to a drinking water dispenser

Lighting

A full pre-rig, plot and patch is required

Lanterns:

10 X Profiles (source 4 preferably) 7 wides 25/50 degree and 3 Narrows 15/32 degree)
16 X 1 K Fresnels / PC
14 X Parcans CP62
3 Floor cans (Can be 1K or PC or Birdies in much smaller venues)
Gells: L134; L711; L027; L120; Frost - 132

Sound

Stereo P.A with sub bass required for the auditorium.
Sound desk with minimum of 8 inputs, 3 x Aux (3 x Post Fade)
1 x Stereo mini jack input, (for Laptop in to desk)
1 x C.D player (As a back up to Laptop + Preshow music)
1 x Reverb unit (Yamaha SPX1000 or similar) (Aux 3)
1 x Compressor (DBX 266XL or similar)
2 x foldback monitors (DSL, DSR) on 2 aux send (DSL&R on post-fade)
2 x Sure SM58 mic on mic stand DSL

Table and Chair

Required: sourced locally from venue



Coming Soon:

RUNNING ON EMPTY



Running On Empty is the story of Man, Woman and their repeated collision over time. Absurd and sometimes devastating, it is about resilience, struggle and our determination to survive.

Running wild
Running out of time
Run away with me?
Running out of love
Running on Empty

Dance, text and song combine in this intrepid new work from Probe. Artistic Director **Antonia Grove** (twice Critics Circle and Time Out National Dance Awards nominee) brings together an extraordinary team of creative collaborators including: director **Jo McInnes** (Royal Court), writer **Brad Birch** (Soho Theatre, Royal Court), choreographer **Charlie Morrissey** (Siobhan Davies), composer **Lee Ross**, designer **Fabrice Serafino**, lighting designer **Beky Stoddart** and performers **Scott Smith** and **Greig Cooke**.

Running on Empty will be touring from October 2013 – May 2014 to venues including:

The Point, Eastleigh
The Place, London
Theatre Royal, Bury
St Edmunds
Swindon Dance
Lincoln Performing Arts Centre

Soho Theatre, London
Salisbury Arts Centre
DanceXchange,
Birmingham
Merlin Theatre, Frome
Pavilion Dance South West, Bournemouth

Dance City, Newcastle
Deda, Derby
Peninsula Arts,
Plymouth University
Dance East, Ipswich
MA Scene Nationale:
Pays de
Montbeliard France

www.proberunningonempty.blogspot.co.uk

www.probeproject.com

“Recommended, especially for anyone interested in boundary-blurring dance-theatre pinned to new writing.”

The Times (on May)

