

FIRST LIGHT

A photograph of a baby and a woman looking at hanging light bulbs. The scene is dimly lit with a warm, reddish-orange background. Several incandescent light bulbs are suspended from above, some glowing. The baby is in the foreground, looking up at the lights, while the woman is partially visible behind them, also looking in the same direction.

A sound and light installation for babies aged 0-18 months

Co-created by Daniel Naddafy and Marty Langthorne

Co-commissioned by Barbican London and developed with support from Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts and, Half Moon Theatre.



First Light

Bathe in sound and light with your baby as you explore the wonders of how their senses develop. Sit, lie down or stand while sharing this immersive, intimate experience.

Inspired by baby lab research into the expanding vision of babies from birth until 18 months, this 15-minute installation distills the world of awakening perception into a unique show. Real-life soundscapes harmonise and echo a newborn's hearing as lights twinkle and colour slowly fills the world.

First Light is designed to be enjoyed by both baby and their grown up.



Performance Information

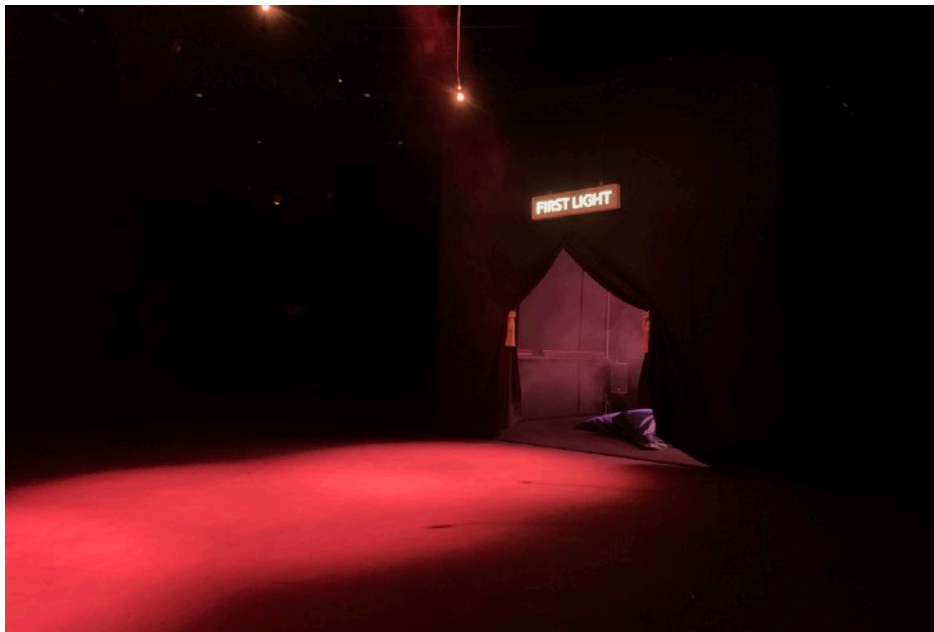
Duration: 15 minutes

Age guidance: 0 -18 months.

The installation runs 3 times an hour, from 10:00-16:00 daily.

The installation takes place in a purpose built performance pod and it is designed for one baby with their carer/carers to experience alone. There is space for the maximum of 4 people (including baby) in the performance pod.

The installation can be presented in a variety of spaces, though it works best in a studio theatre or similar.



Audience Comments

“What an incredible experience for both our little boy and us. We want to go again.”

“Such a joyous, beautiful experience for my 5 month old and myself. She loved the clubbing section (like momma, like baby). Lovely to have 15 mins to be restful and inspired.”



The performance pod is fully draped and houses all the technical equipment.

The only venue lighting required is outside of the performance pod to light the pathway. This will vary depending on the venue size and layout.

Technical Information

Performance pod size: 3.5m x 3.5m x 3.5m Access around and above the pod is needed.

Get In: 1 day

Get Out: 3 hours

Technical Staff: The installation tours with two people who will run the installation. Two venue technicians are required for get in and get out.

FOH: During the run two member of Front Of House are needed at all times.





More About First Light

Informed by research from The Sussex Baby Lab at University of Sussex, this 15-minute experience mirrors early childhood development that has identified how colour gradually enters a baby's world.

First Light begins with distant white light and then progresses into red, the first colour a baby sees in the early weeks. At around 2 or 3 months, the baby can see the difference between red and green. Then yellow emerges followed by blue.

Sound, too, takes centre stage in First Light. Just as babies experience the world from the confines of the womb, where sounds are akin to underwater acoustics, the installation commences with muffled, submerged audio. This transitions into interior domestic sounds before blossoming into a diverse tapestry of soundscapes reflecting the vastness of the outside world.

Beyond colour and sound, the installation illustrates the developing visual preferences of babies. Geometric patterns and shapes hold their attention early on, shifting to more flowing and organic forms as they grow.

During the installation audiences experience the stages of a baby's early sensory development. They might identify certain pivotal milestones along the way, there could also be elements that surprise. The key is to savour the artistic journey, connect with their little one, and relish this unique moment of togetherness.

Daniel Naddafy Co-creator

Daniel Naddafy is a theatre maker and performer based in London, who creates work for young audiences.

His acclaimed solo performance for babies, Glisten, has toured too over twenty venues. He is currently Lead Artist for Playground, a participatory arts project based in Kent. For Playground he recently created a series of short films as well as co-created Out Of The Box, a sensory book for families. In 2021 he adapted The Flower for the Oxford Playhouse and has developed new work with the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre of Korea, Stratford Circus and Kali Theatre. As a performer he has worked across the UK and internationally in Japan, South Korea, Norway, Hong Kong and Singapore. Daniel was Artist-in-Residence at the Oxford Playhouse in 2018-19 he is also an advisory board member for Polka Theatre.

www.danielnaddafy.com

Marty Langthorne Co-creator

Marty Langthorne is a London-based artist and lighting designer whose work encompasses live art, theatre, performance, dance and fine art.

Recent Credits include: Feral Monster (National Theatre of Wales) Zoetrope (National Dance Company of Wales/ Lea Anderson) Watch it (Wendy Houstoun) In World's Unknown (Canduco Dance Co.) It begins in Darkness (Seke Chimutengwende) Showmanism & Remember Me (Dickie Beau) 40/40 (Kat Radeva) In Floods (Greg Wohead) Pleasure Seekers (Bourgeois and Maurice Soho Theatre) Fat Blokes, Class (Scottee) Credible Likable Superstar Rolemodel (Bryony Kimmings) Often onstage (Figs in Wigs) Party Skills for the End of the World (Nigel and Louise/MIF); Athena, Lines, Made Visible (Yard Theatre) Cornelia Parker (Tate Britain) The Candle Project (Abigail Conway) 24/7 (Esmeralda Conde Ruiz & Hellerau Dresden)

Marty Langthorne's previous work for children includes The Iron Man and Laika (Unicorn Theatre) and The Adventures of Curious Ganz (Silent Tide/Little Angel Theatre) and The Assembly of Animals (Tim Spooner).

As a light artist he creates installations investigating human response to colour in the natural world.

For more information please contact: daniel_naddafy@hotmail.co.uk