

Welcome to this audio introduction to **HALF LIGHT**, a dance theatre production from visually impaired choreographer Holly Thomas.

HALF LIGHT will be performed at The Place in London on Tuesday 28th October 2025. Performances begin at 4pm, and 7.30pm.

The show lasts for 60 minutes and there is no interval. There will be a touch tour starting one hour before performances begin lasting 25 minutes.

The following introduction includes information about HALF LIGHT, descriptions of the staging, characters and costumes, and information on how sound is used to convey description and movement.

HALF LIGHT tells the story of a mother and her boy, of a storm and a sunrise, of love, protection and letting go. Half Light invites you to awaken your senses and tune in to a reality where

movement is revealed in sound. Immerse yourself in a world where sight is not assumed.

Part biographical, part fiction, Half Light draws upon Holly Thomas' lived experience of visual impairment and parenting, to unmask a multi-generational story about the courage it takes to send your child into a world that may not always understand.

Designed to be experienced without the need for separate Audio Description, Half Light is performed in the softly lit round, where dance and storytelling merge with a richly layered multi-located sound design.

Dance like everyone is listening.

PERFORMERS

HOLLY THOMAS plays the main character Twilight.

"Hi, my name is Holly Thomas. I am a white woman in my early fifties. I have shoulder length brown hair, a soft gaze, and a

quiet smile. I play the character of Twilight through the stages of her life, from a young child to old age.

As young Twilight my physicality is very playful. I am quite adventurous. As I move towards becoming a mother I sometimes move more carefully for example when I am rocking my baby son to sleep. As an aging Twilight, I move more slowly taking care of my joints.

And like me, my character is visually impaired, so I use my hands and my feet a lot to track pathways as I travel around the performance space. Particularly when I am travelling up, over and around the landscape.”

Holly wears light, warm tones. Orange three quarter length baggy trousers, and a roomy short sleeved pale peach wrapover shirt, fasted with one large button. The shirt is collarless on the left with an oversized collar turned down on the right. She starts the performance in dark pink socks, which are later discarded.

DOUGLAS WALKER is our narrator.

“Hi, my name is Douglas Walker. I am a performer in Half Light. I am an average height white man in my late thirties, with dark brown hair, a full brown beard, and green eyes.

I provide the integrated audio description during Half Light so much of the time I am acting in the capacity of a narrator. But at times I do enter the action as a variety of characters, including a doctor, a social worker, and crucially as Twilight’s son as a grown man.

When I move through the space, I tend to move very upright, deliberately, to find my place and plant my feet. Crucially, I am not a dancer.”

Douglas wears earth tones, a loose pale brown collared shirt with rolled up sleeves and cream trousers, with grey socks.

LUKE ANTYSZ performs as Twilight’s father, her son and the landscape.

“Hello, I’m Luke Antysz and I am a performer in Half Light. I am a white man in my thirties, with long dark hair, which is usually tied in a bun, and I have a short dark beard. In the story I play the characters of a father, a son and the landscape.

At times I move in a pedestrian manner, and at other times I move in a fast paced energetic way.”

Luke wears a loose collarless shirt in sage green with rolled up sleeves, over baggy pale pink trousers. His beige socks are later discarded to dance barefoot.

RUBY PORTUS performs Twilight’s mother, her sister, a salamander and the landscape.

“Hello, my name is Ruby Portus and I am a performer in Half Light. I am a white woman in her late twenties, with long dark brown hair, and a short sharp fringe. In Half Light I play Twilight’s mother, Twilight’s sister, a salamander, and a landscape.

As Twilight’s mother, I am alert and driven and my physicality embodies this. The movement is quite measured. As Twilight’s sister, I often move with slumped shoulders and heavy footing. As the salamander, I move along the floor, slow, smooth, precise like an amphibian.”

Ruby wears pale yellow loose trousers and a yellow collarless shirt with three quarter length sleeves and a half cape draped over her right shoulder, which swishes as she moves. Her light orange socks are removed to dance barefoot.

Ruby removes the yellow shirt later on, revealing a bright yellow vest top underneath to portray salamander, and the precise angular movements of their extended limbs creeping across the ground.

STAGING

At The Place, Half Light is performed in the Robin Howard Theatre. Its usual raked seating has been retracted back to reveal a large dark room with a high ceiling and black floor and walls.

An ellipse shaped dance space dominates the centre of the room, 9 meters long and 4 meters wide. It is surrounded by two rows of seats. There are gaps in the seating at the North, East, South and West points, where performers will enter and exit the space. Performers will move around the dance space, and also

outside of the ellipse, behind the seated audience. There is one reserved empty seat in the front row which will be used by the company during the performance.

Dan Pollard, the sound designer and live music composer, sits at a desk, outside the ellipse, behind the seated audience, with a laptop and a selection of controls. He is a tall, thin, quiet, white guy with messy blonde hair usually sticking out from the sides of a beanie hat.

SOUND DESIGN

The sound design and music in Half Light is created, processed and played back in a few different ways. There are four public address speakers, one in each corner of the performance space, as well as a subwoofer which amplifies the lowest frequencies. There are also smaller portable speakers which are carried, moved and occasionally placed in position in the ellipse by the dancers. This gives the freedom to separate elements of the recorded sound and music, and move it around the space, towards and away from the audience.

Dan explains how music and soundscape are composed live during the show.

“There are also four contact mics in the corners and close to the P.A. speakers. These are attached to the floor and pick up any vibrations created by the dancers as they move. I then process these sounds to whip up a storm using the movement and the architecture of the space as my raw materials.”

INTEGRATED AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Half Light uses poetic narrative and descriptive storytelling to interweave audio description throughout the show. The audio description is delivered live by the performers, with one section using prerecorded voices to deliver the description over portable speakers.

The word poise is used in the description to identify a straight upright posture with a strong left leg extended behind so the tips of the toes touch the floor.

A childhood wrestling match with a sibling begins with the opponents in an opening stance, leaning forward, their left hands behind their backs, their right hand extended ready to attack. A hand tapping their opponents back indicates a winning point. Clasped together in a scrum hold, the wrestlers break apart, one is pulled to the floor by their thighs. The winner holds down their flailing ankles.

Journeying through a forest, two dancers crouch and bend to form the shapes of boulders and tree trunks, which Twilight must clamber over and around. As she makes her way through, the dancers flow around her to create more obstacles, their limbs extending to entangle her in branches and tree roots. The three bodies maintain contact at all times.

As the weather changes, in the calm before the storm, two dancers mirror one another, one inside and one outside the ellipse, drifting through and around the space as if in an abstract chase. Here the sound of the dancers movement is picked up and transformed into a sonic storm.

The dancers copy each other's moves, spinning and whirling, arms wide, becoming frantic and insistent, as they are both pulled into the centre of the ellipse. Eventually their hands meet, they press into and against each other, then push away. As the storm passes, their movement and the sounds quieten and disperse.

LIGHTING DESIGN

The lighting in Half Light is soft, changes in colour and intensity occur slowly. When recorded voices are playing, and when the narrator asks you to close your eyes, there is no light.

Otherwise, there is a general low light which follows the time of day as indicated in the storytelling. Moving us from a warm interior during the day to a softening light at dusk, where a dappled light moves through the forest.

For sections of spoken description, a brighter white spotlights the north, east, south and west entrances, where the performers stand. When they move outside the ellipse, engaged

in moments of storytelling, they are lit by patches of low blue grey haze.

In a dreamlike encounter with a salamander, a clear central corridor of light bisects the ellipse, at one end the salamander creeping forwards, at the other Twilight curled up in a ball on the ground.

A sunrise is created using four bright spotlights mounted on a stand outside the ellipse. A warm orange light brightens in intensity following the pace of the soundscape.

WARNINGS

HALF LIGHT is suitable for audiences aged 5 and above.

Please place all bags underneath your seats keeping the space in front of and behind the seating clear for performer safety.

Please be aware that storm sounds may trigger nervous guide dogs. Please contact the venue if you are planning on attending with your guide dog. And also, if you would prefer not to take your guide dog into the auditorium.

VENUE ACCESS INFORMATION

The access information for **The Place** can be found at theplace.org.uk/access. Or by contacting the Box Office by phone on 020 7121 1100 or by email at boxoffice@theplace.org.uk

Tickets can be booked online at theplace.org.uk/events/autumn-25-holly-thomas-half-light or by phone on 020 7121 1100. Concession tickets are available at £16, or at the earlybird price of £12. Please let the venue know if you have any particular seating requirements.

The venue address is 17 Duke's Road, London, WC1H 9PY.

There is step free access to the main theatre entrance and Box Office from Duke's Road. This entrance can be found on the navigation app what.3.words at [///adjust.hobby.linen](https://www.what3words.com/adjust.hobby.linen) . Please contact the Box Office on 020 7121 1100 with any further enquiries.

CREDITS

The Creative team for Half Light are

Performers - Holly Thomas, Douglas Walker, Luke Antysz, and Ruby Portus.

Theatre Director - Lizzie Minnion

Access and Rehearsal Director - Ania Varez

Sound Designer and Composer - Dan Pollard

Lighting Designer - Chris Swain

Costume Designer - Lydia Higginson

Production Manager - Frazer Riches

And the Producer is Katy Noakes

Audio Introduction written by Charlotte Whitten