

CHARGE

ELECTRIFYING DANCE CIRCUS



Primary Education Resources

The Production

CHARGE is an electrifying new stage production exploring the theme of **electrical energy** in our bodies, our lives and the universe. The production uses the company's renowned fusion of dynamic contemporary dance, breathtaking circus, vibrant imagery, symphonic soundtrack, innovative set design and a gripping narrative, to create an absorbing 360 degree world onstage, that brings to life the story of a universe swirling from top to bottom and inside out with electricity.

"I think life is richer if, every now and again, you look at it with fresh eyes"
(Kevin Finnan, Artistic Director of Motionhouse and choreographer of *CHARGE*).

Art/science fusion

A unique collaboration between Motionhouse Dance Theatre and scientists at Oxford University, *CHARGE* is ideally placed to engage children with scientific themes and ideas and ignite curiosity in the biological electricity of their own bodies. With its capacity to grip the imagination, *CHARGE* has also been developed as a stimulus for a unit of work in primary schools to **support learning across the curriculum**: in literacy, geography, PE, music, history, PSHE and art, as well as science and dance.

Suggestion for use

A brief **introduction** includes images from the show, points of interest and general discussion questions. There is also a section titled **Professor Ashcroft's bio-electricity Q&A**. These are a selection of fascinating stand-alone facts about biological electricity, taken from *The Spark of Life*;

a book written by Dame Frances Ashcroft, Oxford professor of Physiology and the inspiration behind *CHARGE*.

Dance Detectives then looks at each scene in turn, using the original working titles devised by Kevin and his dancers for ease of reference during rehearsals.

- Each section begins with a series of questions that will help the class **search for 'clues'** in the movement, relationships, sound, set, film and lighting.
- Like arranging bits of jigsaw, the children can then be guided to **piece the clues together** so that a fuller picture starts to emerge in terms of likely meanings and references.
[NB: it is recommended that the questions are highlighted *before* watching the extract *or* discussed between *two* viewings].
- This is followed by a **summary** of the 'clues'; information about the **ideas and images** the choreographer was working with; and a suggested **interpretation**.

'How did they do that?' offers a peek behind the scenes to find out how particular effects, images and sequences were achieved. In many cases, this is via video footage of rehearsals; an interview with the choreographer, a collaborator or dancer; or a teaching video, with movements broken down or slowed.

Finally, the scene is used as a springboard into **thematically-linked cross-curricular activities** with the aim of supporting engagement and learning across the curriculum. All activities suggested are suitable for KS2 and some (marked KS1*) have been included for younger children.

Great value for money, access to the Charge Primary Teaching Resources is **only £50**, including a link to the full-length version of the show and a link to the Charge soundtrack.

The scene-by-scene menu below is a preview of the range of content that you will be able to access upon purchasing the resource:

SCENE	CURRICULUM LINK	THEME / ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE
Strop Duet	PSHE	Short term memory: observational skills, remembering techniques & learning strategies through games	KS1: develop skills of observation, concentration and remembering KS2: understand that we have a short and a long term memory and there are things we can do to help us learn and remember more effectively.
Frogs	Science	Frogs: life cycle, habitat, classification as amphibian, movement. Research and debate: animal dissection & vivisection	KS1: understand frogs as amphibians; their movement and their habitat. Encourage care of wildlife KS2: Understand frog skeletons, movement & life cycle. Develop presentation/debating skills
Zoetrope	History	Toys & games before the age of electricity. Zoetrope and flip books	KS1: Understand the impact of electricity on everyday life KS2: Practise research, design and making skills
Lightning Storm	Geography	Electrical storms and global patterns of extreme weather conditions	Learn about extreme weather conditions and personal safety
Frank	Literacy	Mine classic stories for descriptive language: KS1 The Gruffalo KS2 Frankenstein	KS1: identify adjectives and adverbs KS2: Identify MAPOS, openers, subordinate clauses & WOW words.

SCENE	CURRICULUM LINK	THEME / ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE
Hive City	Science PE Dance	Simple circuits using 'canon' dance devices, partner/contact ideas and parkour	KS2: Understand how a simple circuit works and name its parts KS1/2: provide opportunities to develop physical skills of control, balance, partnering, running, jumping, and how to navigate apparatus safely
Lightbulbs	Science	Electrical safety in the home Contemporary concerns: saving energy & renewables	KS1: understand where electricity comes from KS2: Understand today's need to save energy and the value and role of renewable energy sources
Strop Duet II	Science	The Central Nervous System, Brain illusions, brain facts quiz	KS1/2: appreciate the complexity of the brain & CNS and its role as the body's messaging and processing system Appreciate that the brain can be 'misled'
Memories of Paris	Music	Musical genres & appreciation: listening, describing, analysing, making and playing	KS1: Listen to different musical styles with concentration and understanding KS2: Learn about the structure of the ear and how we hear; listen with attention to detail and play sensitively in an ensemble.
The Cycle of Life	Literacy / PSHE	Poetry analysis: Shakespeare's <i>The Seven Ages of Man</i>	KS1: Understand that, like frogs, humans have a life-cycle. KS2: develop confidence and skills in poetry analysis and understanding Shakespeare; identify linguistic devices such as metaphor, simile & alliteration
Brain	Science	Parts of the brain & their functions. Sleep. Dreaming	KS2: be familiar with the main parts of the brain. Understand the importance of sleep and think about the function of dreams
Heart	Science	The heart: effect of exercise on the pulse rate; practical interactive activities to help visualise the circulatory system	KS1: learn that O2 is a basic survival requirement and the heart, an O2 pump KS2: identify key parts of the circulatory system & their role in transporting O2 and CO2 around the body
Memory Erase (Ion Channel)	Art	Surrealism & the ion channel: observing, appreciating, sketching, designing & making	KS1: Know how to make a simple puppet KS2: recognise surrealist images and understand how themes can translate into designs using colour, shape, line, image & pattern
Strop Duet III	PSHE	Remembering; the fading of memory with age	KS2: appreciate the value of memory. Encourage empathetic connection with elderly relatives/neighbours