



Motionhouse

# CHARGE

ELECTRIFYING DANCE CIRCUS



## SCENE 10: A STORY WITHIN A STORY

### Sperm dance!

What film images did you notice at the start?

How would you describe the music?

What are the dancers wearing?

How are they moving?

Who do they remind you of?

Naomi seems to have more sense of purpose; where does she end up?

What magical effect takes place in the visuals and sound when Naomi is collected to begin the next phase of her journey?

SIGNIFIERS	DESCRIPTION	EFFECTS
VISUALS	Film: swimming sperm. Giant Egg. Minimal flesh coloured, skin tight costumes Naomi is 'swallowed up' inside the set Sparkling coloured lights	Nakedness, internal Sperm & egg fertilisation Electrical particle exchange: a new life

SIGNIFIERS	DESCRIPTION	EFFECTS
SOUND	Long, sustained, synthesised sounds create a wash of sound punctuated by live laughter and sizzling sound effects of sparking electrics. The minor mode changes to major: harmonious choral – almost symphonic – texture	Childlike innocence, ease & wonder. Particle exchange Magical, life-changing Miraculous
MOVEMENT	Following, looking around randomly, tripping up bumping into others, laughing, distracted, Naomi breaks away to run faster with more purpose and gravitates to the egg, Her head disappears into the cloth of the set; the rest of her body wriggles vigorously and she eventually folds herself into the material and disappears. Becci appears to lift her out from the egg shape	Child-like, carefree, uncertain, having fun. Naomi – more purposeful & determined – reaches the egg. Gentle, enveloping, fertilisation. Birth journey begins

## Summary of meaning, mood and significance

This chunk of scenes relays a life-story within a story and begins with the sperm (the [semi-naked runners](#), all [smiles and clumsiness](#) like innocent children) who mill around giggling and bumping into one another without much purpose until [one starts to move faster and gravitates towards the egg](#). The [sparkling visuals](#) that surround the egg during fertilisation make clear the magical exchange of particles as electrical energy is passed on to create new life and the minor key resolves to major in a rare moment of optimism. Miracles can happen.

## Aerial fetus

How does Naomi travel?

How many hands is she passed between?

Make sketches of the positions she adopts – is there a pattern?

How does the film change as the journey progresses?

How does the music/soundscape contribute to the effect?

Who finally holds Naomi before climbing down and dropping to the ground to catch her?

What do you notice about how Naomi is held at floor level?

SIGNIFIERS	DESCRIPTION	EFFECTS
VISUALS	Empty stage. No film. Naomi dances in flesh-coloured 'birthday suit'. Becci fully clothed. A dress is popped over Naomi's head and arms	Simple, intimate. Clothing Naomi suggests she is growing up
SOUND	A single, sinuous soprano melody is sung above a gentle percussive rhythm. It echoes & repeats, later with more instrumentation on strings and a sitar pedal note. All finally blend to make a coherent whole	Gentle, uncomplicated to start, growing ever richer and more detailed to suggest increasing complexity as a dependent child becomes an independent unit
MOVEMENT	Always in contact, Hands are highlighted; looking, supporting, holding, lifting, spinning, turning, counterbalancing. Eventually Naomi is supporting her mother in similar holds Danny enters & clothes Naomi. All three walk up the diagonal	Love: watching, embracing, closeness, Naomi grows stronger and more independent; returning affection & supporting her mother Fatherly; a family

## Summary of meaning, mood and significance

This is a touching duet between mother and daughter. Becci holds, lifts and guides Naomi who grows stronger, less dependent and more outward-looking. Becci provides a base for Naomi to stand and reach out, and she catches her when she falls. Towards the end, the roles are sometimes reversed suggesting their relationship is now more equal and Naomi, a young woman, able to support her mother. Danny enters to pop a dress over Naomi's head and the three walk as a family out into the city.

## Mother-daughter duet

How would you describe the mood of the contact duet between Becci and Naomi?

What type of movements are you seeing?

Choose three words that best describe the dynamics

Draw out the spatial pattern they make on the floor.

Who supports who at the start?

Sketch some of the balances and holds

Compare the shapes and balances at the start and finish of the duet.

Is there a progression?

What is the effect of their difference in costume?

Who joins them? What does he do? Who is he?

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