

Hanna

Now, this is a brand-new piece.

A premiere for this work by multidisciplinary choreographer, Riana Head-Toussaint.

And Riana works across a lot of different disciplines including dance.

And this particular work draws from the 2020 piece for the Keir Choreographic Award, but this is a new film that has been used by repurposing some of that visual material.

And Riana's work is a kind of, response to the codified systems that develop around some dance streams like ballet, where you have a particular word or particular movements. However, as a disabled performer, Riana hasn't gone through those systems of training and her first language of movement is as a wheelchair user, that we don't have any vocabulary for that kind of movement.

So, film is a kind of attempt towards creating a vocabulary for all of these gestures which are first language for her and her and an inherent part of her movements.

It's also another beautiful example of how a work can be edited by the disabled artist themselves which allows for a kind of powership, when we normally have films that might be kind of, representing the non-disabled gaze.

We now have a situation where the disabled artist is able to control what we're seeing and to control the narrative.

So, please enjoy 'First Language' by Riana Head-Toussaint.