

Weight(less) report 2024

“Such a wonderful show, loved how the personality from characters was shown, I wasn’t expecting to have it engage with my own emotions to the extent it did and I felt quite reflective after. Absolutely wonderful show!”

About the show

Weight(less) is a new outdoor touring production for summer 2024.

Experience the uplifting journey of *Weight(less)*, where the resilience of three women shines through amidst life’s challenges. With a blend of acrobatics, movement and humour, this heart-warming performance dismantles big problems into moments of laughter, celebrating hope and support to leave you with a smile, unforgettable imagery and a spring in your step.

While *Weight(less)* doesn’t offer solutions, the three acrobats provide reflections on the world we live in and the emotions we experience, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to laugh, cry, and dream together. Join us for this joyful escape from the chaos of everyday life, celebrating the courage it takes to keep on going when times are tough.



Publicity photograph – Rachel Hardwick at www.rachelhardwick.co.uk

About Mimbre

Mimbre is a female-led company creating delicate, breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic theatre in outdoor and unusual settings. For over 25 years, Mimbre has captivated worldwide audiences, using innovative circus and movement as a physical language to illuminate human connections.



WOW Rotherham – image by Sam McQueen

Creative team

DIRECTED BY **Lina Johansson**

COMPOSED BY **Odinn Orn Hilmarsson**

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY **Loren Elstein**

DEvised & PERFORMED BY **Silvia Fratelli, Anesta Mathurin and Martha Harrison**

DRAMATURGY SUPPORT BY **Alison Halstead**

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH BY **Helga Ehrenbusch**

PRODUCED BY **Lissy Lovett**

MARKETED BY **Brilla Sesay**

Creation process

Weight(less) was created through 2023 and 2024.



Research & Development images

During our summer 2023 tour of our previous production, *Lifted*, we handed out feedback cards asking people “What weighs you down?” and “What lifts you up?” as well as asking these questions to the general public via social media. The answers, such as “Ignorance, my own and that of others. It creates or perpetuates division & exclusion” (weighing down) and “A random chat with a random person, feeling we made a connection in an instant” (lifting up) informed our creation.

In July 2023 we spent a week at Deda in Derby working with young people to gain their perspectives.

In autumn 2023 we also gathered the thoughts of the young people who are part of Mimbre Youth.

In January 2024 we spent a week on Research and Development particularly looking at different kinds of props and inflatables for final use in the show.

In March and April 2024, we spent four weeks rehearsing the final show. This included one week at 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space in Newbury. The rehearsal time was tight, but we used it effectively.

We had two previews of the show, one at 101 and one at Mimbre Youth.

Access

We created an Easy Read introduction and synopsis for our audiences to look at before they attend, to get to know the show, the characters and the story. There is also an Audio introduction and synopsis for our audiences to listen to before they arrive. They can both be found via our website here: https://mimbre.co.uk/portfolio_page/weightless/



Carnival of Colours, Derry, images by Joseph Gerard

Environmental considerations

We used the Theatre Green Book¹ for the first time during the creation of the show. We were aiming for the 'Basic' standard, which includes making sure that 50% of the show materials have been used before and 65% of them will be used again. Although we easily exceeded these targets for our flooring and costumes, despite our designer's best efforts it was impossible to source recycled inflatables for the show design so we did not quite make the target this time – however it was an informative experience to use the standards and we have learned for next time. Please contact us if you would like to see our Production Calculator.

¹ <https://theatregreenbook.com/>

The tour

Date	Venue	Number of shows	Audience number
02/05/2024	101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space (preview)	1	15
07/05/2024	Milton Gardens Community Hall (preview)	1	80
11/05/2024	WOW Rotherham	2	85
18/05/2024	Peterborough Celebrates	2	450
30/05/2024 - 02/06/2024	tête-à-tête festival, Rastatt, Germany	7	3700
29/06/2024 - 30/06/2024	Carnival of Colours, Derry	4	350
06/07/2024 - 07/07/2024	Basingstoke Festival	4	290
14/07/2024	Around the Lake Festival, Creative Crawley	2	380
27/07/2024	Summer of Circus, Worthing	2	420
29/07/2024	Purfleet-on-Thames Big Lunch	1	125
TOTALS		26	5895

(All of these numbers were reported to the Arts Council's Illuminate database²)



Carnival of Colours, Derry, image by Joseph Gerard

² <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-creativity-and-culture/illuminate>

Audience feedback

We gathered feedback through a variety of methods including in person and using feedback cards at the performances themselves, through the Arts Council-supported Impact & Insight Toolkit, and through social media comments. All of the feedback can be read in the appendix, and here are some highlights.



tête-à-tête festival, Rastatt, Germany

In person

We received some wonderful feedback from an audience member in Rotherham at one of our first shows. We think it demonstrates really well the impact and importance of performing outdoors in urban areas to local audiences. You can watch the feedback here too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkRISEPOf8g>

“I’ve come down, I sat here and I just thought you know what I’ll give it a whirl, I’ve never seen outdoor artists before, but it was amazing, I don’t know if you’ll understand this, but it has kind of changed my life, erm, I never thought you could dictate words through movement but, I can’t say any more than that... It was amazing, absolutely amazing, and it’s kind of made me feel something I’ve not felt ever.”

“I never thought I could understand something like this, and that’s why I sat down, but when I saw it, I felt the pain, I felt the feelings, I felt everything, and it kind of made me want to cry in a sense. I said to the performers absolutely bloody amazing, and I’ve never ever thought I could like something like that, but God bless you. Absolutely amazing.”

Feedback cards

WEIGHT(LESS)

Please tell us what you thought about the show

It was a wonderful mix of acting, emotions and acrobatic. You did cool stunts and it was an enchanting story, I could feel by myself what you showed us. From the joy to the hurt. The music was on point to the storyline. It was just perfect. Thank you for this experience! :)

(you can continue on the other side)

Thank you!

We would love to ask you some more questions. If you'd be happy to say more scan here:

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

NAME

EMAIL

WWW.MIMBRE.CO.UK

INFO@MIMBRE.CO.UK

@mimbreaero
 @mimbreaerobots

WEIGHT(LESS)

Please tell us what you thought about the show

Your show was more than lovely! It touched my soul so deep! Thank you, lovely ladies!

(you can continue on the other side)

Thank you!

We would love to ask you some more questions. If you'd be happy to say more scan here:

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“Saw you guys last year and thought you were fantastic and once again I have nothing but praise. What a wonderful show! You guys are so strong!!”

“Amazing- such strength trust in each other. Well done!!”

“Absolutely fabulous! Lovely message behind the show. Really enjoyed watching. Amazing display of talent and the story was beautifully shown. Had us gripped from the beginning! Thank you :)”

“It was wonderful, sensual and soulful, thanks for the great and hard work 😊”

“So powerful always to see the combined strength of women. It was playful, joyful, scary, courageous (spelt that wrong) I loved the emotional journey audience and artists went on. Beautiful!”

Impact & Insight Toolkit

We used Counting What Count’s Impact and Insight framework³ to attempt to collect some quantitative data on audience reactions. We had 13 responses in total - which isn’t enough to draw solid conclusions from but is good for an outdoor production with no ticketing data. Respondents said they saw us in Peterborough, Germany, Derry, Basingstoke, Crawley, Worthing, Purfleet-on-Thames and one person was just responding to the images they’d seen online. Respondents were from across the gender spectrum and were from a range of ages.

100% of respondents said their experience was excellent.



WOW Rotherham – image by Sam McQueen

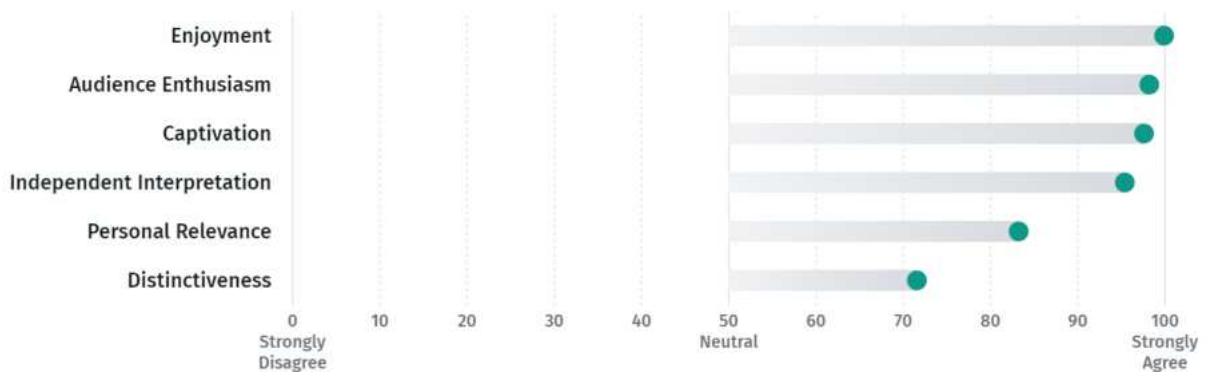
³ <https://impactandinsight.co.uk/>

We asked audiences the following questions which they could respond to on a slider between 0 and 100:

- **Enjoyment:** I had a good time
- **Audience Enthusiasm:** I would watch something like this again
- **Captivation:** It was absorbing and held my attention
- **Independent Interpretation:** I felt free to make my own meaning with the work
- **Personal Relevance:** It felt relevant to me
- **Distinctiveness:** It was different from things I've experienced before

And the results:

Dimension Averages



Please write three words to describe your experience

- Capturing. Passionate. Intriguing
- Strong, inspiring, moving.
- Immersive, emotional, joyful.
- Playful, emotional, skilful
- Moving, engaging, playful
- Sorrow eased, enchanted
- Amazing. Entertaining. Brilliant.

If you have any further comments about the performance, please write them here.

- I particularly loved the music. I loved it being female only performers and producers.
- My highlight was when they were all standing on top of each other and the bag was holding them all up! Beautiful!
- I felt emotional. I read the story as people needing help, receiving help and sharing burdens with a good outcome. I left feeling lighter and brighter and peaceful which we all need in our lives. The music was lovely and the setting in the trees added to the feeling of wellbeing.
- Such a wonderful show, loved how the personality from characters was shown, I wasn't expecting to have it engage with my own emotions to the extent it did and I felt quite reflective after. Absolutely wonderful show!

Social Media

At our German shows a local group used our show as a springboard to talk and write publicly about what they wanted to change in their lives.



Screen grab from Instagram - translation: “Three women - lots of luggage Weight(less) shows acrobatically what we carry around with us on a daily basis and how this load can also become lighter.

Afterwards, we considered together what loads might have been in the bags.

In line with this, we distributed a few notebooks in the city, everything else should change, so that our daily burdens would be lighter.”



The future

We are currently gathering more feedback from our touring team, and will use this as well as all the wonderful feedback from our audiences and bookers to rerehearse the show for summer 2025. Please contact Silvia on silvia@mimbre.co.uk if you would like to book it!



Carnival of Colours, image by Joseph Gerard

Thank you very much to our supporters



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Appendix: full feedback

In person

WOW Rotherham: “I’ve come down, I sat here and I just thought you know what I’ll give it a whirl, I’ve never seen outdoor artists before, but it’ was amazing, I don’t know if you’ll understand this, but it has kind of changed my life, erm, I never thought you could dictated words through movement but, I can’t say any more than that... It were amazing, absolutely amazing, and it’s kind of made me feel something I’ve not felt ever. I never thought I could understand something like this, and that’s why I sat down, but when I saw it, I felt the pain, I felt the feelings, I felt everything, and it kind of made me want to cry in a sense. I said to the performers absolutely bloody amazing, and I’ve never ever thought I could like something like that, but God bless you. Absolutely amazing.”



Creative Crawley – image by Ian Greenland

Feedback cards and other written feedback

Mimbre Youth preview:

“Hell (in the beginning)

Ok (in the middle)

Good (at the end)”

“That was a... I am glad to get to see it”

“Loved it. Love it when

1 love it when we pelm uas head and another legs.

2 floating bags to double height!”

“Very talented could do with some speaking. 10 stars”

“It was great, maby talk though?”

“Soz a bit borin no no we [<3] loved it thank you”

“I really enjoyed the show, and it looks like they put a lot of effort in performing”

“I did not get what the it was about”

WOW Rotherham:

“Very interesting & new”

“It was so cool and awesome!!! I hope you do another show like this”

“Saw you guys last year and thought you were fantastic and once again I have nothing but praise. What a wonderful show! You guys are so strong!!”

“Awesome really enjoyed the performance”

“Absolutely fabulous! Lovely message behind the show. Really enjoyed watching. Amazing display of talent and the story was beautifully shown. Had us gripped from the beginning! Thank you :)”

“It was wonderful, sensual and soulful, thanks for the great and hard work 😊”

“So powerful always to see the combined strength of women. It was playful, joyful, scary, courageous (spelt that wrong) I loved the emotional journey audience and artists went on. Beautiful!”

“Very moving beautiful <3”

“I wouldn't take any part of [what] we've seen today out of the show. I first part of the show is my favourite, it's very captivating. Mum loved it's there were lots of funny parts and moves I haven't seen before”

“Moving & beautiful & thoughtful”

Peterborough Celebrates 2024:

“Awesome, super cool to see something different. Rock on!”

“Amazing- such strength trust in each other. Well done!!”

“Really powerful, I think it would be really powerful at a women's event”

“Absolutely loved the show fantastic acting”



Rastatt – Tete-a-tete, Germany:

“I didn’t saw just a show I saw a story, feelings and acrobatic. I enjoyed your show” – A (12 years [old])

“emotional show, great story telling!”

“We think our and your program are fantastique, the choreography and the music were hand in hand!”

“Great dancing acrobatic with 3 wonderful strong woman! Thanks a lot for your great show”

“It was great! <3 Perhaps the colour of the bags were not ideal. Perhaps black for ‘problems’ would be better! 😊”

“Thank you for your beautiful show”

“it was so touching I know you seem overcome problems and make the best out of it, even dance with them. But some times they just take everything over, a burden, that you want to keep, that defines you & belongs to you how would life be without? Happy I don’t dare. Thank you so much <3”

“your show was more than lovely! It touched my soul so deep! Thank you lovely ladies!”

“My respect!! I love it. No man who is for the strong part. Three ladies who do their fight with their sorrows by their own!!”

“I experienced the show as very soft and poetic while the pictures that were created were powerful. I would have loved to see some interpretation moment of what’s in the bags. Great show 😊 <3”

“I really enjoyed the show. I liked the beginning with the bags and the one woman on the shoulders of the other one. The idea that people can whisper their sorrows into the little bags and you will listen to them was very creative”

“I thought your show was really great and I don’t really have anything to improve on except that I didn’t quite understand the story. But otherwise it was really exceptional. Best regards”

“I loved that you guys showed how the orange pillows represented hard (weighted) parts but also light (weightless) parts of life, and how you got threw it together with acrobatic gestures.”

“Hi guys, thanks for your great show. I was really touched by it, especially by the team work, e.g. when the three oof you stand on each others shoulders. Great work – well done. I wish you the best. Thanks, love S”

“Thank you for this beautiful show. It was amazing to see your joy on stage. You’re playing really easy with weight and weightless. It was like a nice dream”



“It was a wonderful mix of acting, emotions and acrobatic. You did cool stunts and it was an enchanting story. I could feel by myself what you showed us. From the joy to the hurt. The music was on point to the storyline. It was just perfect. Thank you for this experience! 😊”

“Thank you For that! It was really touching. I Felt like I was talking to you, or listening to something you told me/us in a conversation. I was moved, and still am 😊 So much so, that I kind of decided to express myself artistically again, so, thank you again. Last but not least holy shit, it was aesthetically pleasing, beautiful! Keep going, see you!”

“I really enjoyed your show!! I loved the acrobatics and the dynamic movements! Keep it up! Best wished P <3”

Carnival of Colours Derry:

“I watched the weight (less) performance yesterday in Derry and was really moved by it. I found it really thought evoking and emotional at times (especially watching with my young daughter who was enthralled) I just felt like I needed to message to commend the three performers who were fantastic and really struck a cord 🙏❤️ I wish them every success in the future”

“Beautifully choreographed show! So engaging and emotive, while still being playful and fun. So glad I managed to catch it! Thank you for coming all the way to derry”

Basingstoke:

Dear artists,
Your work is fabulous.
We saw you at Basingstoke festival today.
We were not sure we understood the storyline/ choreography, especially in the very beginning.
Positive criticism: maybe make it simpler?
With many thanks and huge congratulations,

Crawley Festival:

The show was amazing, lovely professional and emotional! We really enjoyed and would like to see them next summer please.

Worthing Festival:

I missed the beginning of the show, but what I saw was fantastic; powerful, graceful and beautiful. One movement/ balance flowed into the next. A real joy to see. Thank you!

That was amazing you must have had so much trust in each other. The show must take so much team building exercises.

Thank you so much I saw you a few years back with Lifted and have followed your progress since. I find your work so inspiring + moving – The pure strength + vulnerability.



Impact & Insight online survey

Full survey questions

1. Where did you see us?

- Rotherham
- Peterborough
- Crawley
- Rastatt, Germany
- Derry, Northern Ireland
- Basingstoke
- Worthing
- Purfleet
- Other (please specify)

Custom – Multiple choice

2. **Overall-Experience:** How would you rate your experience overall?

- Excellent
- Good
- Neutral
- Poor
- Terrible

Intelligence - Dropdown

3. **Three Words:** Please write three words to describe your experience

Intelligence - Shorttext

4. **Dimensions Introduction:** Thank you. You will now be presented with a series of statements relating to your experience of the event. You may feel that you agree or disagree with them.

Intelligence - Message

5. **Enjoyment:** I had a good time
Dimension - Slider
6. **Captivation:** It was absorbing and held my attention
Dimension - Slider
7. **Personal Relevance:** It felt relevant to me
Dimension - Slider
8. **Distinctiveness:** It was different from things I've experienced before
Dimension - Slider
9. **Independent Interpretation:** I felt free to make my own meaning with the work
Dimension - Slider
10. **Audience Enthusiasm:** I would watch something like this again
Dimension - Slider
11. **Open Feedback:** If you have any further comments about the performance, please write them here.
Intelligence - Freetext
12. **Demographics Introduction:** The following questions are about you. We are asking these so we can better understand access to arts and culture and what barriers there may be.
Intelligence - Message
13. **Age:** What is your age?
 - 0-15
 - 16-19
 - 20-24
 - 25-29
 - 30-34
 - 35-39
 - 40-44
 - 45-49
 - 50-54
 - 55-59
 - 60-64
 - 65-69
 - 70-74
 - 75+
 - Prefer not to say*Demographic - Dropdown*

14. **Gender Identity:** How would you describe your gender identity?

- Man
- Non-binary
- Woman
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

Demographic - Dropdown

15. Having said that your ethnic group is 'Asian or Asian British background', please specify. (Other)

Demographic - Shorttext

16. Having said that your ethnic group is 'White', please specify. (Other)

Demographic - Shorttext

17. Having said that your ethnic group is 'Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnic group or background', please specify. (Other)

Demographic - Shorttext

18. Having said that your ethnic group is 'Mixed or Multiple ethnic group or background', please specify. (Other)

Demographic - Shorttext

19. Having said that your ethnic group is 'Other ethnic group or background', please specify. (Other)

Demographic - Shorttext

Full answers not included above

Please write three words to describe your experience

- Capturing. Passionate. Intriguing
- Strong, inspiring, moving. Our world needs more inspiration like these 3 women. Thanks to WTM for enabling us to experience Weightless show!
- Immersive, emotional, joyful.
- Wow! Why! How?
- Playful, emotional, skilfull
- Moving, engaging, playful
- Sorrow eased, enchanted
- Bewegend (German, translation: moving)
- You create visually really powerful pictures! This is so inspirational. :)
- Amazing. Entertaining. Brilliant.

If you have any further comments about the performance, please write them here.

- I loved the idea of whispering wishes into the little bags. Seeing all the children doing so was heart warming.
- I particularly loved the music. I loved it being female only performers and producers.
- My highlight was when they were all standing on top of each other and the bag was holding them all up! Beautiful!
- I felt emotional. I read the story as people needing help, receiving help and sharing burdens with a good outcome. I left feeling lighter and brighter and peaceful which we all need in our lives. The music was lovely and the setting in the trees added to the feeling of wellbeing.
- Such a wonderful show, loved how the personality from characters was shown, I wasn't expecting to have it engage with my own emotions to the extent it did and I felt quite reflective after. Absolutely wonderful show!
- Thank you so much!
- Thank you!

