

LIGHT

THE HOLOCAUST & HUMANITY PROJECT

PRESS KIT



MEDIA



Ballet Austin's Official
LIGHT TRAILER



U.S. Holocaust Museum
PODCAST INTERVIEW



United Nations
RADIO INTERVIEW



TEDx TALK
YOUTUBE PODCAST



Emmy-Winning Documentary
PRODUCING LIGHT

A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project is a multi-faceted work, which at its core, seeks to use dance as a convener of conversation around issues related to the protection of human rights against bigotry and hate.

Illuminated through the tragic personal story of Holocaust survivor Naomi Warren, the dance takes the audience on a journey that is simultaneously situated in the past while making relevant connections to the present. We watch as a young woman's journey takes her from the comfort of a loving family with a rich cultural history, to a place of unimaginable degradation and dehumanization.

Historically, the Holocaust stands alone in its depth of destruction. And while the catastrophic loss and suffering of the victims cannot be measured, alarmingly, the history's underlying narrative – Anti-Semitism, other-izing, propaganda, poverty, and demonizing of migrants – continues. These issues can only be confronted through dialogue. My hope is that Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project can encourage community wide conversation.

- *Stephen Mills*

HIGHLIGHTS

CONCEPT + CHOREOGRAPHY

Stephen Mills

MUSIC

Steve Reich

Evelyn Glennie

Michael Gordon

Arvo Pärt

Philip Glass

SETS + COSTUMES

Christopher McCollum

LIGHTING DESIGN

Tony Tucci

RUN-TIME

117 minutes

EMMY-WINNING FILMS

KRLU's Arts in Context:

Ballet Austin's Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project
(2005)

KRLU's Producing Light
(2012)

COMING SOON

FINDING LIGHT – A Feature-Length Documentary Film
(2020)

PREMIERES

Arsht Center for the Performing Arts – Miami, FL

Acco Fringe Festival – Acco, Israel

Suzanne Dellal Centre – Tel Aviv, Israel

Gerard Behar Center – Jerusalem, Israel

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – Washington, DC (excerpt)

The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts – West Palm Beach, FL

The Long Center for the Performing Arts – Austin, TX

The Joyce Theater – New York, NY (excerpt)

Byham Theater | PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATER – Pittsburgh, PA

XVII Internazionale Abano Danza – Abano Terme, Italy (excerpt)

The Bass Concert Hall – Austin, TX

Festival Ljubljana – Ljubljana, Slovenia (excerpt)

The Newman Center | COLORADO BALLET – Denver, CO

Polk Theater | NASHVILLE BALLET – Nashville, TN

NAOMI WARREN: LIGHT'S INSPIRATION



Naomi Warren grew up in Wolkowysk, a small city in Eastern Poland. In 1939, the war broke out and by the summer of 1941 the Nazi army invaded Poland. The Nazis very quickly began systematically isolating, interning and murdering the Jewish population. Naomi and many family members were rounded up and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau in January of 1942. Arriving at the camp, Naomi was torn from her family. Her mother was selected for immediate liquidation. During her time in the death camp she lost her husband, sister-in-law and others. Naomi survived three years at Auschwitz, was transferred to Ravensbruck and was eventually liberated from Bergen-Belsen. At the end of the war, Naomi settled in Houston, Texas where she remarried and built a successful import business. She served on the boards of Holocaust Museum Houston, the Jewish Federation and the Southwest Region of the Anti-Defamation League. Among her many honors are awards from the Jewish-American Committee, Holocaust Museum Houston and the Government of Denmark. In honor of Naomi's 80th birthday, her family established the Warren Fellowship for Future Teachers at Holocaust Museum Houston.

SYNOPSIS

SECTION I

Life begins with man and woman, Adam and Eve. Civilization develops; families and cultures evolve to include a pattern of daily life and valued traditions, a wedding. As this section ends, change is imminent.

SECTION II

Those deemed "different" become exploited. What is familiar slowly disappears. People retreat from one another, beginning to socially isolate; to hide in hopes of survival.

SECTION III

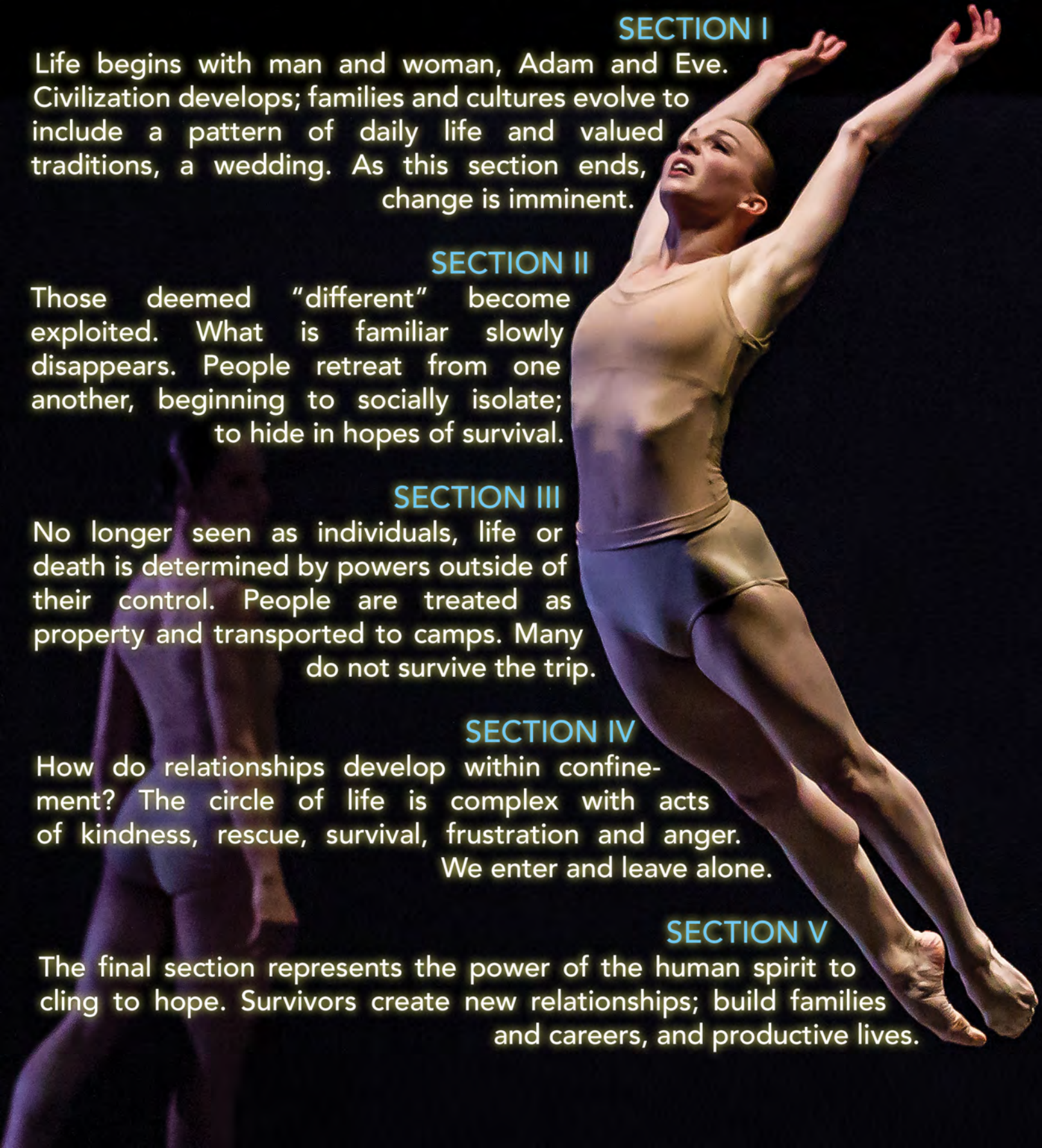
No longer seen as individuals, life or death is determined by powers outside of their control. People are treated as property and transported to camps. Many do not survive the trip.

SECTION IV

How do relationships develop within confinement? The circle of life is complex with acts of kindness, rescue, survival, frustration and anger. We enter and leave alone.

SECTION V

The final section represents the power of the human spirit to cling to hope. Survivors create new relationships; build families and careers, and productive lives.



STEPHEN MILLS

CHOREOGRAPHER | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Stephen Mills is the Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer of Ballet Austin. Mills has created more than 45 works for companies around the world, such as Hong Kong Ballet, Ballet Augsburg, American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, Atlanta Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Washington Ballet, Cuballet in Havana, Cuba, BalletMet Columbus, Dayton Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Ballet Pacifica, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Louisville Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Colorado Ballet, Texas Ballet Theater, The Sacramento Ballet and Dance Kaleidoscope.

Mills attracted attention with his world premiere production of *HAMLET*, hailed by *Dance Magazine* as "...sleek and sophisticated." The *Washington Post* recognized Ballet Austin as "one of the nation's best-kept ballet secrets" after the Company performed Mills' world premiere of *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*, commissioned by and performed at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., which had been preceded by seven sold-out Kennedy Center performances of *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, as well as an invitation to The Joyce Theater in New York City.

After two years of extensive research, Mills led a community-wide human rights collaboration that culminated in the world premiere of *LIGHT / THE HOLOCAUST & HUMANITY PROJECT*, which was awarded the Audrey & Raymond Maislin Humanitarian Award by the Anti-Defamation League. *LIGHT* made its international debut with a tour in three cities across Israel. Subsequently, Mills led his company of dancers through a 14-city tour of the People's Republic of China.

Mills was chosen to represent the U.S. through his work, *ASHES*, at Les Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis in Paris. Mills also received the Steinberg Award, the top honor at Le Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur International Choreographic Competition for *ONE / THE BODY'S GRACE*. Mills is a master teacher and has been guest faculty at Jacob's Pillow, Goucher College, The Virginia School of the Arts, The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Stephens College, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts, and Point Park University.



PRESS QUOTES

"...romantic...expression of tender sentiment..."

NEW YORK TIMES

"...beautiful storytelling has, perhaps, never been so dramatically felt."

BROADWAY WORLD

"...A powerful, emotional experience that doesn't let go when you leave the theater."

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

"A frenzied flurry of hands and lights opens a ballet scene... to promote tolerance, fight bigotry and hate."

YNET NEWS ISRAEL CULTURE

"[Mills'] creative imagery was surprisingly concise and his choreography, with its endlessly original movement and partnering, was distinctive and powerful."

PALM BEACH ARTSPAPER

"The abstract scene with its single spotlight could represent a church in Rwanda, a labor camp in Cambodia or a gas chamber in Europe."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"...A masterful exposition on one of history's darkest episodes. Visually and emotionally gripping..."

AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN

"This is a way to build on our past and create a new future,"

CBS12

BALLET AUSTIN



LOCATION

Austin, Texas - USA

YEARS OF SERVICE

64

COMPANY DANCERS

22

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Paris, France
- Acco, Israel
- Jerusalem, Israel
- Tel Aviv, Israel
- Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Miami, Florida
- West Palm Beach, Florida
- Abano Terme, Italy
- Montreal, Canada
- Limassol, Cyprus
- Nicosia, Cyprus
- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- New York, New York
- Washington, D.C.

NOTEWORTHY ACCOLADE

The Humanitarian Award

Presented by the Anti-Defamation League

TOUR DATES

LIGHT

THE HOLOCAUST & HUMANITY PROJECT

Dates of Availability

Fall 2020

Spring 2020

Fall 2021

Spring 2021

Fall 2022

Spring 2022

For More Information On LIGHT: [Click Here](#)

For Technical Specifications: [Click Here](#)

Touring + Licensing Inquiries: paul.bloodgood@balletaustin.org



“Those who do not remember the past
are condemned to repeat it.”

- *George Santayana*