

SPEAKING VIBRATIONS

Lyrics and ASL Translation Written by Jo-Anne Bryan and King Kimbit

Directed by: Jacqui du Toit

Actor(s) names: Jo-Anne Bryan, Carmelle Cachero, King Kimbit, Jordan Samonas

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Speaking Vibrations 2021 Transcript

Speaking Vibrations is a multi-disciplinary, accessible performance art collective & work in rhythm tap dance, spoken word, ASL song/poetry and contemporary dance, created by Jo-Anne Bryan, Carmelle Cachero, King Kimbit & Jordan Samonas, working under creative direction by Jacqui du Toit. In an in-person capacity, we use innovative vibrotactile technologies, such as vibrating vests, to enable audiences to experience sound as feeling and vibration.

We are four women from different walks of life, intersecting through art and beyond. The tensions between where we're from, where we live and the languages we speak, sign, or have lost, are the stories and songs our work is grounded in. Based on reflections of lived experiences, languages and stories, this work brings together 4 artists of diverse identities and practices, and disrupts notions of performance art categorization - of who can perform, enjoy and fully experience art.

Beginning of Script:

Opening Credits

Title - SPEAKING VIBRATIONS

Created by Jo-Anne Bryan, Carmelle Cachero, King Kimbit and Jordan Samonas

Directed by Jacqui du Toit

Scene 1 – Jo-Anne

Visual Description:

Jo-Anne is a Black Woman of Caribbean decent. She is wearing a black T-shirt and pants underneath green fabric wrapped around her body. The same green material is twisted and wrapped around her head. There is white paint on her face in a pattern. She is communicating in American Sign Language, ASL. She is Deaf.

Jo-Anne is alone on screen, and is communicating in ASL

Sound Elements:

None

Text on screen:

As long as I remember, I am running away from my life.
As soon as I am running away, I try to not look back
Somehow, it comes back to me
I am trying to disconnect from it
Somehow, it attached to me, it won't let me go
My life, my roots

I am not able to escape from it.
As soon as I am running away
I escape from my life, my roots
I try not to look back
My life and roots continue rolling back to me
Somehow, I embrace/evolve my life/roots
Somehow, it is attached to me.

Scene 2 – Carmelle and Jo-Anne

Visual Description:

Carmelle is a Filipina woman with long black hair, half tied up. She is wearing black pants with red fabric draped over shoulders that covers her back, the front is cinched with a belt, and the same red fabric is wrapped around her wrists. She has white paint on her face in a pattern of dots and curves. She is communicating in rhythm through tap dancing and body percussion.

Jo-Anne is signing using ASL

Sound Elements:

Carmelle is tap dancing with elements of body percussion to the movement of Jo-Anne's ASL.

Text on Screen:

Running away
my life . . . roots
not look back
rolling back
embrace
evolve
Scene 3: Carmelle

Visual Description:

Carmelle is alone on screen tap dancing.

Sound Elements:

Tap dancing on a sheet of wood with body percussion.

Text on Screen:

None

Scene 4 – King Kimbit and Carmelle

Visual Description:

King Kimbit is a Southeast Asian woman with black hair and golden skin. She is wearing a navy blue long-sleeve and black tights with a darker blue fabric covering her head (sometimes). There is black paint on her face in a pattern. She is communicating in English through her voice in poetry and soulful song.

King is whirling, while singing, around Carmelle who is dancing on a piece of wood.

Sound Elements:

Carmelle is tap dancing with body percussion, holding a groove

King Kimbit enters and sings.

Text on Screen:

*Stolen away from home, never too late to make amendments
We've grown so far away, disconnected, become distant
Try to convince us if we don't know, we won't miss it
The soul is only whole once we go back and visit
We have to go back and get it, wherever we come from
The truth of our roots, from there we can never run
Whether or not you know, what it is will always be
So don't you think it's better if you check on it and see
Stolen away from home, never too late to make amendments
We've grown so far away, disconnected, become distant
Try to convince us if we don't know, we won't miss it
The soul is only whole once we go back and visit
We have to go back and get it, wherever we come from
The truth of our roots, from there we can never run
Whether or not you know, what it is will always be
So don't you think it's better if you check on it and see*
Scene 5 – King Kimbit and Jordan

Visual Description:

Jordan is a White Woman of Greek and English/Irish decent. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top with a low back, and black tights underneath white fabric wrapped around her body in a Grecian style dress. There are small straight black lines, painted on her forehead and outside her eyes. She is dancing to the music she hears, feels, and sees.

King is sitting to the side while singing, wrapped in her blue fabric.

Jordan opens the scene with a silhouette of her caused by a side spotlight.

She dances openly around the floor.

Sound Elements:

King is singing the song in a slow soulful way, drawing out the words that match the movements Jordan is making through her dance.

Text on Screen:

*Stolen away from home, never too late to make amendments
We've grown so far away, disconnected, before distant
Try to convince us if we don't know, we won't miss it
The soul is only whole once we go back and visit
We have to go back and get it, wherever we come from
The truth of our roots, from there we can never run
Whether or not you know, what it is will always be
So don't you think it's better if you check on it and see
If I speak into the ground, would you hear me now?
Could you feel the vibes from the other side?
If I speak into the ground, would you hear me now?
Could you feel the vibes from the other side?*

Scene 6 – Jo-Anne, Jordan, King Kimbit, Carmelle

Visual Description:

All four performers are on stage.

Jo-Anne is standing in the middle with a spotlight on her. The other three are whirling around Jo-Anne moving their arms in ways that reflect the elements of water, wind, and fire.

Text on Screen:

None

Scene 7 – Jo-Anne

Visual Description:

Jo-Anne stands centre screen, with a spotlight coming from above.

Sound Elements:

None

Text on Screen:

One world divides into two worlds.
One world- my own family
I was raised into my own family with love, unity, and love
we communicate in our own words
Somehow my family communicates, it becomes blurry
I am not able to catch up
I tried to get their attention but it is still blurry
I feel disconnected
I walk away from my own family
One world divides into two worlds.
One world- my Deaf community
I feel comfortable in my Deaf community ... belonging, acceptance, and validation
We communicate in our own sign language
Somehow I feel different from the rest of Deaf people
They look at me differently
They look at my black skin
I feel disconnected
I began to look at my own family again
I see my parents struggling to belong
My parents are immigrants to Canada
New country, a new beginning
Somehow, Canadians look at my parents differently
They look at their black skin
Struggling to assimilate in Canada
Just like me, struggling
We are now truly a united family
We communicate in our own way to unite again
We are a family with love, unity and beloved
Two worlds are now one world
My own world, it is a story to be told

Scene 8 – Jo-Anne and Jordan

Visual Description:

Jordan dances and moves to the rhythm of Jo-Anne's signs. They move around each other.

Sound Elements:

A singing bowl is struck every few second creating a drawn out chime.

Text on Screen:

Are We Connected Somehow?
Two individual
We are walking on the same parallel

Are we truly the same people?
Are we truly different people?
Two Individuals
Different individuals
Somehow we connect/unite
Somehow we disconnect
Somehow we are one unity
Looking around us, we are truly different people
Our life, our stories are truly parallel but varies
Somehow we connect
Somehow we are a one unity
Somehow we disconnect
Back to where we are coming from

Scene 9 – Jo-Anne and King Kimbit

Visual Description:

King starts off on screen alone, later, Jo-Anne joins in with the stepping

Sound Elements:

Song and stepping throughout

Text on Screen:

*If I speak into the ground, would you hear me now?
Could you feel the vibes from the other side?
If I speak into the ground, would you hear me now?
Could you feel the vibes from the other side?*

[Repeating throughout]

Scene 10 – Jordan and Carmelle

Visual Description:

Two boards on the ground open the scene.

Jordan and Carmelle enter facing each other.

Sound Elements:

Both Jordan and Carmelle are tap dancing.

Part way through this scene, Jordan takes off her tap shoes and dances barefoot.

Text on Screen:

None

Scene 11 – Jo-Anne, Jordan, King Kimbit, Carmelle

Visual Description:

Jordan and Carmelle are in the same positions they ended at in the previous scene, facing each other.

Jo-Anne and King enter doing step choreography.

Sound Elements:

Stepping at the beginning

King performs a spoken word poem while Jo-Anne performs the poem in ASL.

Text on Screen:

Since I've
Been so far removed
From the language that represents you
How will you recognize when I try to communicate?
Calling out your name
Ain't as simple as it used to be
Or at least that's how I imagine our past in my head
Straight forward gestures
Simplicity at best
Now you rest
In a language I can no longer understand
I wonder which circumstances brought us to this situation
Well, instead of placing blame
I will move ahead more efficiently if I focus on unframing my complacency
To this English, That I've learned to love and to live in
Untangle my tongue with cue cards on the table
I will study my own hands
So I can dismantle language barriers
Plucking from the ground
From the ground up
From the ground up
From the ground up
From the ground up
As I must, As I must, And I must.

Scene 12 – Jo-Anne

Visual Description:

Jo-Anne is standing in the middle of the screen in a spotlight.

Sound Elements:

None

Text on Screen:

Two worlds are now one world
My own world, it is a story to be told

Closing Credits scrolling up the screen

Rhythm Tap Dance - Carmelle Cachero

Contemporary Dance - Jordan Samonas

ASL Song/Poetry - Jo-Anne Bryan

Song and Poetry - King Kimbit

Director - Jacqui du Toit / 8th Generation Storytelling

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Jacqui du Toit & 8th Generation Storytelling

Thank you to our family, friends, fellow artists, and community members for supporting
us in this work.

Thank you Ottawa Fringe Festival for presenting our work

With Gratitude,

Speaking Vibrations

End of Transcript.