

The Wardrobe of Love

(Abi Hercules show 2024)

An hour long multimedia performance piece fusing live songs, spoken word, movement, costume design, video and lighting design.

The Concept

Songs form the soundtrack to our life. In this piece, each relationship experienced is represented by a song which is in turn, represented by a costume.

Wearing neutral underwear, I am unboxed and placed on a pile of records. I am dressed in an outfit as I perform a song about a relationship. The costume is dramatic, flamboyant and expresses the sentiment of the relationship story it represents. As the song ends, I am disrobed, shedding that story, that relationship. But a piece of the costume, representing the effects of that relationship, remains on me. Some spoken word segues into the next song and the next costume.

By the end of the piece, having sung an album's worth of songs about relationships, I am wearing a mixture of items, an amalgamated costume representative of the experiences I have had.

Costumes

Each song has a bespoke costume to represent the story with one element that is removable, which can remain worn with other outfits. As much as possible, I would like the material to be sourced from recycled material alluding to and supporting the concept that relationships develop between people from recycled emotions. This will be a collaboration with a costume/fashion designer.

Set Design/music

I will stand on a circular podium which is a stack of records and sing live into a mic, to track and may also play a small synthesiser and flute. A lead guitarist may play live. Next to me is the rail of relationship costumes.

Video

Projected behind me is a video which takes its inspiration from the filmed show, playing with time (forwards, backwards, faster, slower) and amalgamated with images of me with people, past relationships. This will be a collaboration with a filmmaker who will bring their own perspective to the storytelling.

Lighting

This will be a collaboration with a lighting designer who will bring their own perspective to the storytelling.

Venues

The show will be self-contained, simple to take around small venues and could be performed in both music and theatre spaces. Initially it will be trialled at Confetti, London's new live venue as the final project for my MA in Commercial Songwriting & Production with a view to playing further venues around London and beyond.

Personnel

Me, guitarist, sound & lighting engineer, costume/stage manager.

Collaborators

Costume Designer, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Director, Film maker, Choreographer, Musician (could be done solo if necessary). I have a Director and a Photographer and Guitarist and am therefore looking for other collaborators to join me.

Budget

I have an initial £5000 budget to go towards expenses. My hope is to find collaborators who are happy to be involved for expenses as it is an opportunity to showcase their art.