STARCATCHERS

A Starcatchers production by
Kerry Cleland and Company

float



The List Festival Awards
SHORTLIST
2026

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

made in
SCOTLAND



float

Float is a beautiful and immersive world for babies from birth to 12 months old and their grown-ups. Scotland's first durational performance for babies, Float blends accessibility and baby-led interaction with sensory performance.

Designed especially for babies up to 12 months old, Float invites families to relax with your baby and enjoy a gently interactive performance, with music, dance, visual projections and sensory objects, in a beautiful, calm space inspired by the healing properties of water. Families are free to explore this safe tactile world and engage with the performers or unwind and de-stress in Float's tranquil space.

Float's rich environment is filled with dance, music, sounds and sensory objects within a tactile and welcoming space, to stimulate the audience's curiosity as well as providing a calm and intimate space for relaxation. The performance invites the audience to freely move within the space, to explore, to be active and/or to relax, and to choose the ways they want to engage with the performers.

WHY DURATIONAL?

> It was so inclusive and accessible! Because it was three hours, it helped me to relax and come to the show when I needed to. It worked around my baby's needs."

Float was developed through extensive testing with audiences.

Feedback from both babies and adults tells us that the 3 hour experience is hugely valuable, from reducing parent anxiety about attending a performance with their baby for the first time, to the babies developing confidence over the duration of the performance, enabling then to explore and enjoying the deliberate repetition of elements.

An essential part of the concept of Float is the notion of audience's agency to lead their own experience of the performance. Adults will be gently encouraged to support and follow their child and to share the experience and exploration of the space. The performers are all experienced in working with babies and young audiences and can facilitate this experience; to engage with and respond to the babies needs in the space. The framework of the performance has been created to allow flexibility in the timings of each section, in response to the audience and to enable more time to be spent, if the audience is enjoying a particular element.

The audience is invited to enjoy the performance freely and on their own terms, a key aim for the work is to reduce audience anxiety at attending a theatre performance, so the audience can come in when they are ready without having to worry about fixed start times, they can exit and re-enter during the show, and stay as long as they like, within the four hours running time.

> Absolutely brilliant. Both babies were captivated, and we stayed for the whole three hours. A beautiful, immersive feast for the senses that felt like a celebration of parenthood. The babies were included, the parents were cared for, and the whole experience was incredibly calming. I want to go again!"
> Ali C (Audience member)

REVIEWS

"Never have I ever felt so at ease in a place with my baby other than at home. What a show and what an experience!"

Edinburgh Festivals for Kids: https://edinburghfestivalsforkids.com/float/

"I think it was a smashing success. We had just a brilliant time with our twins! They had so much fun that they fell asleep in the pillows before the show even ended (no easy feat with these two!). We can't wait to see the next project by this lovely team!"

EdFestMag: https://edfestmag.com/show-title-float/

"Not just what a baby needs, Float is also what every parent needs...Quite the most beguiling show on the Fringe."

The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2026/aug/18/robot-helpers-and-flying-houses-edinburgh-fringe-tips-for-families

FEATURES

BBC: https://www.instagram.com/reels/DcWfR4_DM1o/

Broadway Baby:
https://www.broadwayworld.com/scotland/article/FLOAT-Set-To-Bring-Sensory-Friendly-Performance-To-Edinburgh-Fringe-20260616

The National:
https://www.thenational.scot/news/26152479.float-inspired-chaos-journey-parenthood/

Loureviews: https://loureviews.blog/2026/07/28/edinburgh-fringe-preview-kerry-cleland-on-float/

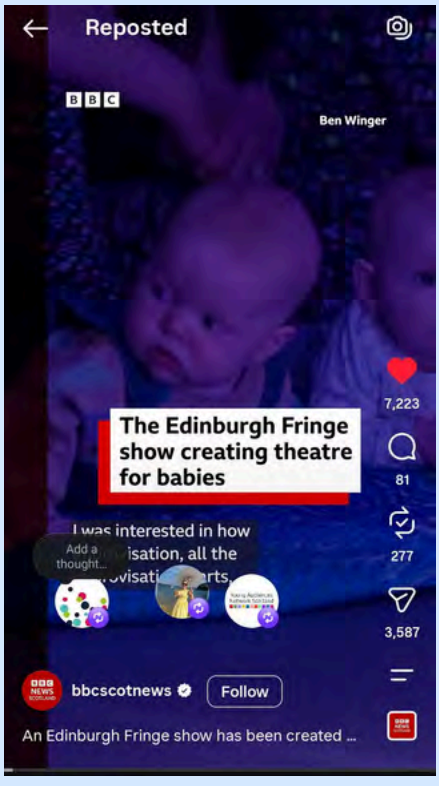


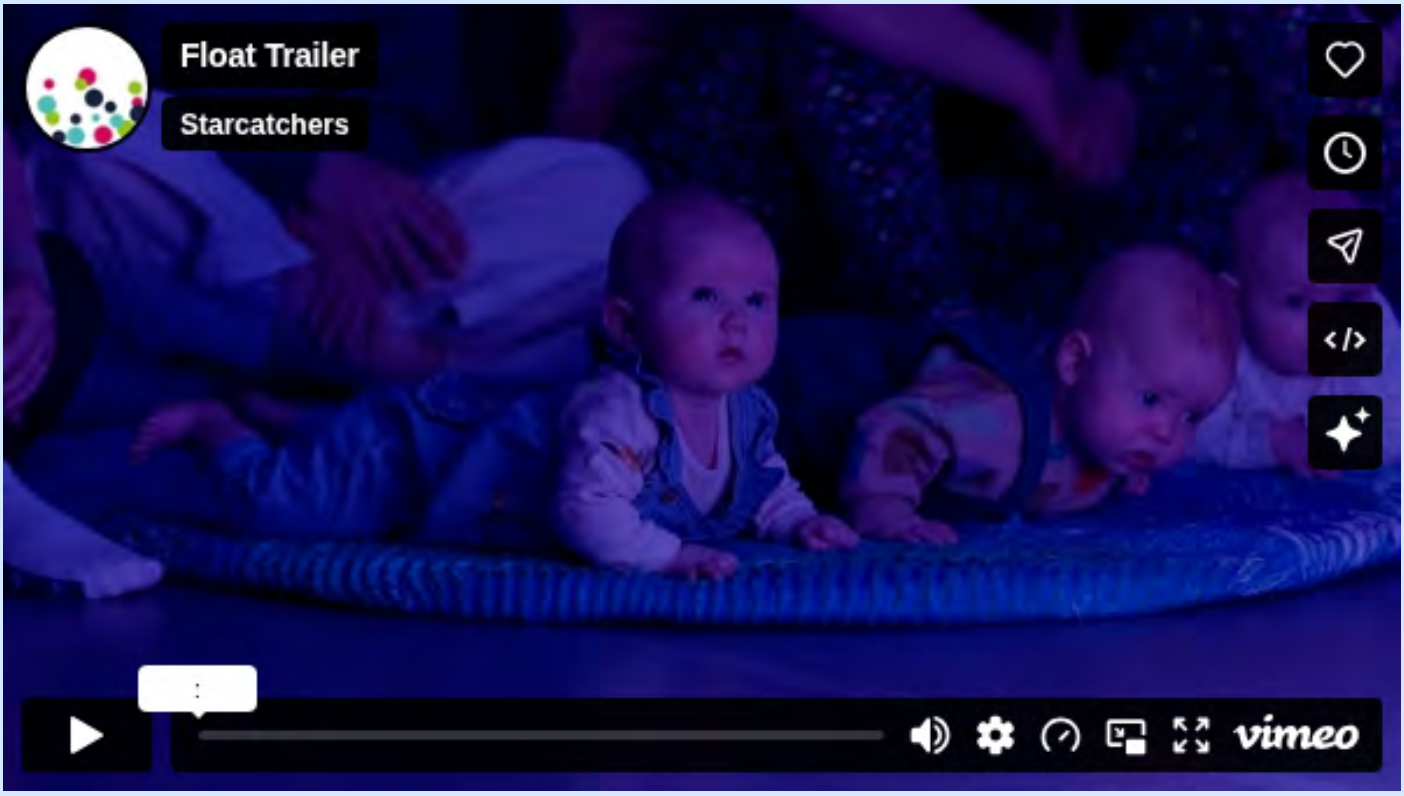








Photo credits: Ben Winger



You can view the trailer for Float at https://vimeo.com/1128838772.
If you have any issues viewing it, please contact info@starcatchers.org.uk

> "This was one of the most beautiful, relaxing shows I have attended all year. An artistic study and meditation on water, playfully inviting the youngest audiences of the Fringe to explore. My little one was in awe, smiling, clapping, and even curled up for a cozy nap towards the end. I was at first a bit anxious about the run time, but found myself remaining in the space easily for the whole performance and the time really flew by. The performers engage and interact with the little ones so well, it is magical to see my baby get involved with the objects and performance around him." Tamara Al-Bassam (Audience member)



creative team & cast

Concept / Direction	Kerry Cleland
Design	Alison Brown
Sound Design	Kim Moore
Lighting Design	Emma Jones
Production Management	SNC Productions
Stage Manager	Lucy May Wilson
Technical Stage Manager	Lynn Wiseman / Jed Gillian
Consultants	Heather Fulton and Suzie Ferguson
Maker	Caragh Veitch Philip
Performers	Maddie Broad, Kerry Cleland, Hayley Earlam (original tour 2025) Rachel Laird (Fringe 2026), Shiori Usui

> “I can’t praise it enough, the show was perfectly designed for the audience. My baby was transfixed throughout, and I felt so relaxed. The attention to detail was incredible, everything seemed designed to maximise the babies’ engagement, from the set, to props to costumes. I loved the beanbags where we could relax, feed, and connect. The blankets were a lovely additional touch.”



touring history

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2026

9 Aug – 22 August: Pleasance at EICC

Supported by Made in Scotland

Float Scottish Tour 2025

20th & 21st March: Lyra Studio, Edinburgh
25th & 26th March: Lemon Tree, Aberdeen
28th & 29th March: Perth Theatre
25th & 26th April: The Studio, Edinburgh
29th April: Adam Smith, Kirkcaldy
2nd & 3rd May: Paisley Arts Centre
7th May: Birnam Arts, Dunkeld
9th & 10th May: Platform, Easterhouse
16th & 17th May: The Barn Arts, Banchory
23rd & 24th May: Tramway, Glasgow

Supported by Creative Scotland Touring Fund

LOTTERY FUNDED



uk touring technical specifications

Float is designed to be performed in traditional theatre and non-theatre spaces. The show can be self-contained; however, this needs to be discussed in advance of any confirmed bookings.

AGE
For babies from birth - 12 months and their grown ups.

CAPACITY
Maximum capacity of 48 per performance; (20 baby & adult tickets, plus 8 additional adult tickets). This should be confirmed with the company in advance of any tickets going on sale.

RUNNING TIME
Float is an immersive durational performance for babies and their adults. The performance takes place within a custom-built structure with all elements of set, lighting and sound toured by the company. Maximum 1 performance per day, usually 10am - 1pm.

VENUE REQUIREMENTS
We require:

- Suitable for spaces which can achieve blackout, meet the minimum dimensions and have a café/foyer/ chillout space nearby
- Preferred performance area of 10m x 10m – this can be reduced to 8m x 10m if required
- Minimum height clearance of 4m
- The space must be clean and clear of all items of equipment which could be harmful to babies
- Backstage facilities including two separate dressing rooms
- Access to hot and cold running water within 20m of the performance space
- No carpeted floors
- Full day get in required – 7 hours plus lunch
- The audience sit within the set with the performers, on beanbags.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING.
Please contact us to discuss requirements for international touring.

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Technical & Production Information
Version2(25.03.25)

About Float

Float is an immersive durational performance for babies and their adults. The performance takes place within a custom-built structure with all elements of set, lighting and sound toured by the company.

Float invites its audience to enjoy and explore a performance in a beautiful, tranquil space inspired by the healing properties of water and the depth of the ocean. Float offers babies and their adults an exceptional immersive and multisensorial artistic experience. It invites the audience to freely move within the space, to explore, to be active and/or to relax, and to choose they ways they want to engage with the performers.

The audience is invited to enjoy the performance freely and on their own terms. As a durational performance, the audience can come in when they are ready, exit and re-enter during the show, and leave when it suits them the most.

An essential part of the concept of Float is notion of audience's agency to lead their own experience of the performance. Adults will be gently encouraged to support and follow their child and to share the experience and exploration of the space.



Outline Venue Requirements

- Suitable for spaces which can achieve blackout, meet the minimum dimensions and have a café/foyer/chill-out space nearby
- Preferred performance area of 10m x 10m – this can be reduced to 8m x 10m if required
- Minimum height clearance of 4m
- The space must be clean and clear of all items of equipment which could be harmful to babies
- Backstage facilities including two separate dressing rooms
- Access to water within 20m of the performance space

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Float

Technical & Production Information
Version 2 (25.03.25)

Technical Requirements

Staging
The performance takes place within a self-sufficient and free-standing structure consisting of

We bring:

- Grey roll-out floor 8m x 8m which will be secured to your floor with either black gaffer tape or grey PVC tape, depending on your floor surface colour
- Combination of tank traps, poles and aluminium truss which create the Float structure
- Fabric sails hanging from structure
- Various cushions and bean bags for the audience to sit on
- Cylindrical acrylic water tank 0.82m diameter, 0.9m high
- All props

Largest piece of set is a 4m long steel pipe

Please provide

- A clear and clean space which meets the minimum dimensions noted above in the venue requirements overview
- Blackout
- Access to a water supply within 25m of the space
- 20 chairs for audience breakout area within the space
- The space must be suitably warm for dancers to perform along with for the babies and their families – preferably 20-21^{0}C

Water tank
At the heart of the performance is a water tank which is positioned central to the space. Please note the following:

- Tank weight empty 32kgs
- Tank requires 145 litres of water to fill to 30cm depth required for the performance
- One performer performs in the tank
- Total weight of the tank, water and performer approx. 260kgs
- Water is changed daily and not left in the tank overnight
- Water tank has been tested over 4 weeks of rehearsals
- We tour with a 30m hose to fill the tank, along with various water tap attachments **– please let us know if we will need a longer hose**
- We also tour with a water pump for emptying the tank
- Action in the tank is calm, and no water intentionally leaves the tank
- Procedures are in place to ensure any there are no slip hazards from any water appearing on the surrounding floor from the performer exiting the tank

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Lighting

We tour with all lighting equipment required for the performance including:

- Nomad control
- 1 x ETC Lustr+
- 8 x StudioCOBs
- 12 x LED pin spots
- 16 LED birdies in banks of 4

Please provide

- 2 x 13amp sockets
- Potentially some additional venue down lighting for audience entrance area

Audio

We tour with all audio equipment required for the performance including:

- Qlab system with interface
- Analogue mixer
- 4 x hand held radio mics Wharfedale Pro WF-300 system
- 8 small powered speakers located around the structure
- 1 x sub woofer, positioned beside control

Please provide

- 2 x 13amp sockets

Note that all stage, lighting and sound cues will be operated by the touring technical team.

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Version2(25.03.25)

Logistics

Transport

- Allshow related equipment travels in a long wheelbase transit style van
- Please provide parking for the van
- Company members travel by public transport

Staffing

- Our touring team
  - o Stage Manager
  - o Technical Stage Manager
  - o 4 performers
- Please provide
  - o two venue technicians for get in and get out who can carry out stage, lighting and sound duties
  - o one duty venue technician required for performances
  - o any staffing re-charges must be agreed with the production manager in advance
- All cues operated by our Technical Stage Manager from control position
- No on-stage cues
- If the venue requires a member of staff to be present during a performance, this must be provided by the venue at their cost
- Any staffing costs must be agreed in advance with the Production Manager

Schedule

- Full day get in required – 7 hours plus lunch
- Access required on performance days 2 hours before performance and 1 hour after
- Get out – 2.5hours, typically straight after final performance

Front of House

- Houseopens at advertised start time – the audience will be guided into the space by our team
- Running time – this is a duration piece made up of 3 x 1 hour continual loops
- No interval
- Audience members are free to come and go throughout the performance
- There will always be a Starcatchers member of staff present to support your front of house team
- Latecomers are allowed – audience can enter the space at any time
- Audience will be required to take their shoes off and to leave any jackets/large bags outside the space.

Backstage

- 2dressing rooms are required with full length mirrors
- Access to drinking water
- Access to washing and drying facilities for costume and towels

Health & Safety

- Risk assessment can be downloaded from this link
- Build method statement and tank failure procedure can be downloaded from this link

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Technical Contacts

Craig Fleming	Production Manager	craig@sncproductions.co.uk +44 (0)7974 156 421
Lucy Mae Wilson	Stage Manager	
Lynn Wiseman	Technical StageManage	

Document Revisions:

Version 1 (13/03/25)
- Document creation

Version 2 (25/03/25)
- Updated on opening
- Replacement images
- Addition of temperature requirement
- Refinement of technical requirements
- Addition of link to Health & Safety paperwork

CONTACT DETAILS

Co-Chief Executive - Jennifer Phillips - jennifer.phillips@starcatchers.org.uk
Producer - Gemma Smith - gemma.smith@starcatchers.org.uk

ABOUT STARCATCHERS

Starcatchers is Scotland's Arts and Early Years organisation. Our vision is that Scotland's youngest children, those from birth – 5 years old realise their rights through arts and creative experiences that bring joy and wonder, igniting curiosity in early childhood. We champion exceptional, innovative arts and creative experiences for our youngest children, those aged from birth to 5 years old, and their parents and carers. The voice, needs and interests of this audience are at the heart of all our activity, providing inspiration and provocation in the development of projects and programmes.

We believe that young children have the right to access innovative, inspirational, high quality and age appropriate theatrical and creative experiences. Working with specialist artists, we produce beautiful and inspiring performances for very young children aged birth- 5, and tour to venues and communities across Scotland and internationally.

Find out more about starcatchers at starcatchers.org.uk

STARCATCHERS

@starcatchersuk

Principal Funders

Creative Scotland
Alba | Chruthachail

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Members of

Living Wage Scotland

We are part of the Green Arts Initiative

Registered and mailing address: Whale Arts Agency, 30 Westburn Grove, Edinburgh EH14 2SA
Starcatchers Productions is a limited company, registered in Scotland (SC392561), and a Scottish-registered charity (SC042222).