

Keeping Spatial  
Simple:  
Immersive Audio For  
The Small Theatre

# Keeping Spatial Simple: Immersive Audio For The Small Theatre

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Why spatial audio?

# Introduction

- Small theatre case study
- The results of that performance
- Early conclusions and opportunities



# Wallenberg: Small theatre production 2012

**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO  
WALLENBERG ?**



Holocaust hero, Raoul Wallenberg, saved tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Budapest before being arrested by the Soviets in 1945. He was never seen in the West again. 'Whatever Happened to Wallenberg?' is a play based on rumours of his continued survival years later in the Gulag.

**THE DECK**  
THEATRE COMPANY

29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
8pm, Doors open 7:45 pm  
Tickets £10 / £7 (Conc.) on door  
Advance Tickets £8 / £6  
[www.thedektheatrecompany.co.uk/tickets](http://www.thedektheatrecompany.co.uk/tickets)

**OLD FIRE STATION**  
GEORGE STREET, OXFORD

# The brief:

- “Add some audio”
- No budget
- By June (it was April)



# We built a small team





# The story

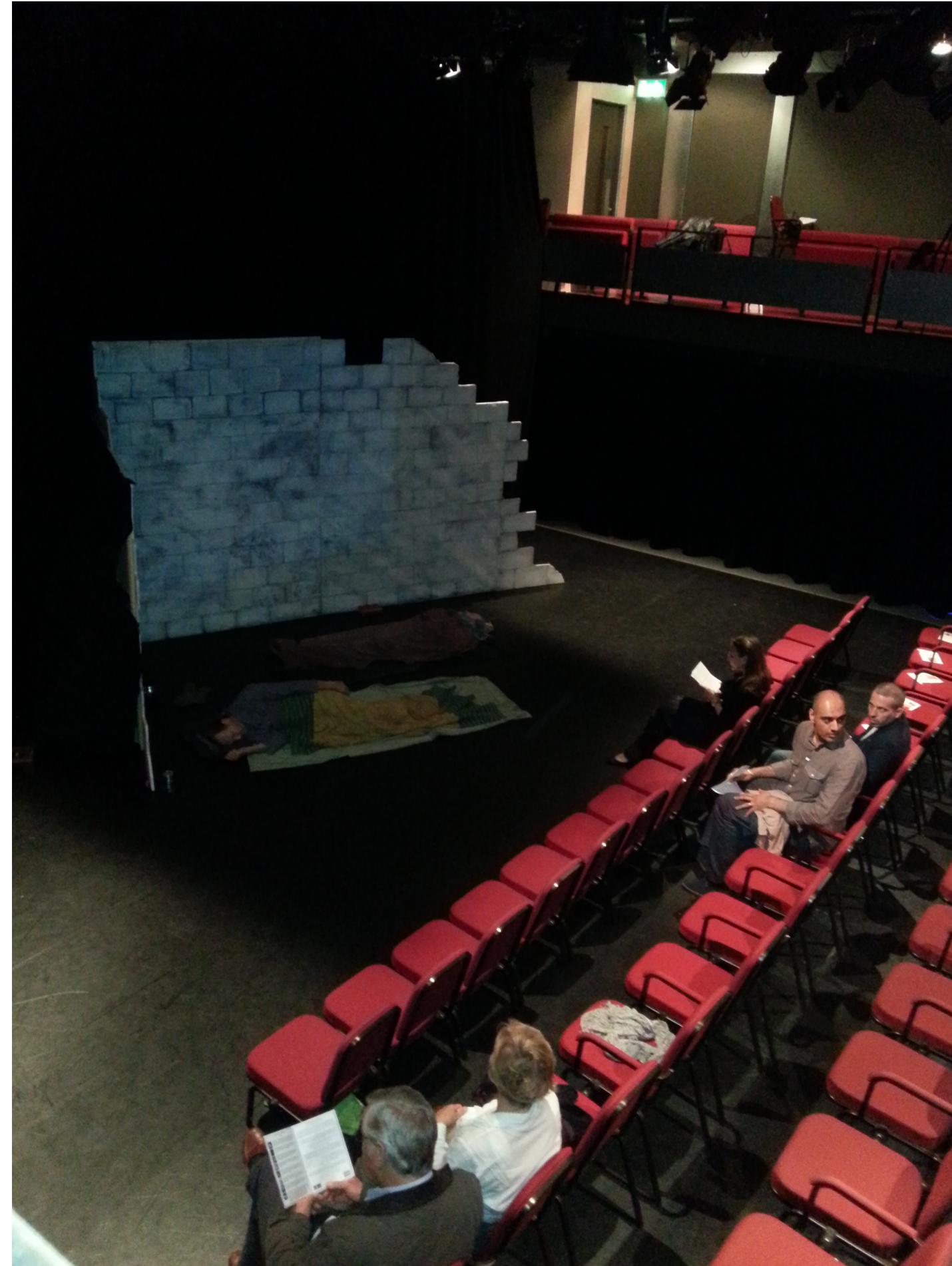


# The approach

- Learn the script / story
- Assess the auditorium
- Source sounds



# The theatre



# Possibilities

- 2.0
- 2.1
- 5.1
- 7.1
- 8.1
- 10.1
- 10.2
- 11.1
- 2+2+2+2
- 5.1+4
- 5.1+5
- 64.3
- WFS
- 3+2



# Mono





# Audio objective

- Ambience and music
- ADR, Foley and FX on film
- Sound cues



# Attended every rehearsal





# Went on location





The result:

Why spatial audio?  
(Who cares?)

# The audience said...

“His [Raoul’s] performance in particular is chilling”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>

# The audience said...

“A brilliant mix of theatre, video  
and physicality with a strong  
story”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>

# The audience said...

“Atmospheric and intriguing, I left  
wanting to discover much more ”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>



# The audience said...

“Clever usage of film took the audience well beyond the confines of the theatre.”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>

# The audience said...

“I hate the theatre - The play was  
fantastic!

Expert use of ambient sounds and  
music.”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>

# The audience said...

“A sterling performance...  
wonderful film support...”

Never mind if you prefer cinema -  
go and see this!”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>

# The audience said...

“This play makes his story very personal, cleverly taking the audience into his experiences and hopes.”

Source: <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/feature/7217/whatever-happened-to-wallenberg>

# Why Spatial Audio?

- A greater sense of immersion
- Audiences enjoy the experience
- Opportunities to inspire others

# To get started

- Use what you've got
- Ask for help
- Find a great opportunity

# Conclusion

- All about the experience
- Creativity is critical
- Keep spatial simple

# Thank you for listening

Stay in touch:

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