

Tier 11 – Time

Anna Seymour (individual)

I woke up one winter morning in Melbourne. I had just moved to this city, and I'm staying at a friend's place. I thought about my friend Petra. I had a dream about her, but it didn't feel like a dream. It was too 'clean' to be a dream. Too 'structured' and 'linear'. Yet I had a strange sensation that I had gone somewhere else. I was in a stunning coastal landscape with dramatic cliffs. I was walking on the rocks. Petra was there too but it was physically impossible because she is a wheelchair user. Yet, she was there walking over the rocks too and she got very close to the water. I called to her to be careful... After I woke up, I turned on my phone and waited for messages to come in.

There was a message from Petra.

I opened it...a photo and her happily describing where she was. It looked exactly where I was in my dream. She was in Cape Town, South Africa and she told me about an amazing walk she did along the cliff, and something told her to get really close to the water. I told her about my dream, she said her friend was telling her to be careful too.

What does this tell us about time, and our concept of time?

Is it possible for time to dissolve and for someone's spirit to travel across different time and space dimensions?

I dance with Candoco Dance Company in London, a company of disabled and non-disabled dancers. I was in the studio with the recently appointed artistic director, Raquel Zafe Meseguer. She works with rest and horizontality as creative impulses. She asked me what my crip time was. I was taken aback. While I'm Deaf, I'm not physically disabled and never considered identifying myself as crip. Then I realised I do have crip time. Deaf-crip time. My mind blew open...

Another dream. I was swimming in the ocean, the waves were huge, and I was getting swept away. I wasn't scared. A man appeared out of nowhere, he had a kind face, and he held out of his hand. He gently pulled me to shore. He was someone I never met before, but he seemed friendly and somewhat familiar. The next day, in real life, I had a Zoom meeting with my new detective for the court case I was involved in. When he appeared on my screen, I gasped. It was the man from my dreams the night before.

Is it possible to meet someone in your dreams before you meet them in real life? What is our future, past, present really? Do they all spiral and cross over each other in evermoving circles and spirals? Is it possible to experience the time of the future before it is our present or past?

My Deaf-crip time looks like this...

- The gaps in communication when attempting to lipread someone. You only get 30% of speech. It is full speed processing time while I fill in the gaps of what I don't understand with the context and guesswork.
- The back-and-forth motion when trying to follow a group conversation trying to track when someone speaks
- The interpreter delays – there is always a delay of between 10secs – 60 secs with sign language interpreters so I get information after everyone else
- The awkward moments when I contribute to the group conversation when I'm about a minute behind the conversation
- Processing English/spoken language into sign language
- When a hearing person says to me "I will tell you later"
- Holding up a queue on the bus or at a shop or at a train station while I ask a question via written on paper or typed in my phone and feeling the irritation of others around me
- Often being the last to know of news and gossip in family or friendship circles
- Not being able to have a conversation and do something else at the same time
- Often being behind in dance classes because I don't hear the music, or no one gives me visual cues
- Needing more time to learn choreography as I must separate the movement and verbal instruction and musical information
- More movement translation time is needed for me – I have always thought I was just bad/slow at learning choreography.