

Will Simpson

Visual Artist, Editor, Projection Designer

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Will Simpson is a UK based visual artist, filmmaker, editor and projection designer whose practice traverses the world of public art and film to stage shows and exhibitions. His projection design work featured in the European stage premiere of the critically acclaimed West End production of **The Kite Runner**. The show has seen two successful West End runs, two national tours, an international run at **Dubai Opera House** and **Helen Hayes Theatre** on **Broadway** in 2022. It is also due to tour North America in 2024.

“The best page-to-stage show since war horse.... a spellbinding production”, “the stage is atmospherically dominated by a fan-shaped kite complete with a rear screen for William Simpson's evocative projections.” ★★★★★ — Mark Shenton, The Stage

Other video design and projection work has appeared in shows such as; **Living Lakes** in Michigan and NYC; **Rocky the Musical** (Stuttgart, Stage Entertainment); **Derren Brown - Miracle** (national tour); **Theatre of Illumination** (Light Night Leeds), **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** (West Yorkshire Playhouse & UK tour), **Richard III** and **Charlie Peace** (Nottingham Playhouse); the award winning adaptation of **Of Mice and Men** by Mike Kenny (Mind the Gap); **Clockwork** (National Theatre); **Mapping the City** (Slunglow); **The Mamba** (West Yorkshire Playhouse) and **Piano Circus – Trilogies** (Kings Place). His work has been seen on stages including the National Theatre, Royal Festival Hall, Liverpool Everyman, Nottingham Playhouse, Birmingham Rep, York Theatre Royal, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Kings Place, London.

The projected artwork, **Theatre of Illumination**, was commissioned as the centre-piece for Light Night Leeds, seen by an audience of over 30,000 people during the course of its one night performance. Theatre of Illumination and Will's studio appeared in a 12 page feature for **Bright 2**, a globally distributed publication about architectural illumination and light installations published by **Frame Publishing**. His studio and this project were the only featured UK based works and organisations among 40 globally.

Will's directing and film work includes the award winning film **Soldiering On** (Channel 4); **Jump the Fire - Melt Yourself Down** (Leaf Records), **Anish Kapoor Flashback** (Arts Council Collection); **Born Survivor** (BBC3); **Its Not Over Yet – Middleman** (Universal Records); **Talking Transformations** (World Wildlife Foundation); **Instructions for Films** (Zoo Art Fair) **Lear Settings**, an animated film adaptation by Hull Sinfonietta's composer, Lee Tsang and **Rana Begum: Breaking the Mould Sculpture by Women since 1945** (South Bank Centre). Most recent film and TV editor credits include **Day in a Life of Coronavirus Britain** (UGC Logger, Candour Productions) for Channel 4, **You Do You** TV series (Interstellar, Channel 4), **Second Hand for 50 Grand** TV series (Wise Owl Films, Channel 4), **Our Lives: Building Our Street** (Candour, BBC1) and **The Pearl Island**, Qatar TV series (SpunGoldTV, Al Jazeera).

Other recent work includes **Secret Life of Trees** for Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival, a large-scale woodland light piece, created to highlight the social structure of tree, **Endless Means** for the Leeds Industrial Museum and **Rising Sun**, a large-scale work that illuminated the end of Bournemouth pier as the real sun set.

Production images and video can be viewed online at www.willsimpson.co

Selected Video and Projection Design Credits

Project	Details	Director
The Kite Runner, Broadway	Helen Hayes Theatre	Giles Croft
The Kite Runner, Dubai	Dubai Opera House	Giles Croft
The Kite Runner, UK	The Wyndhams - West End	Giles Croft
Theatre of Illumination	Light Night Leeds	Will Simpson
Living Lakes	US Tour (Michigan & NYC)	Anita Gonzalez
Derren Brown - Miracle	UK National Tour	Andy Nyman. Andrew O'Connor
Zero Hour (Batumi, Georgia)	Imitating the Dog	Andrew Quick
Darkness Darkness	Nottingham Playhouse	Jack McNamara
Rocky the Musical	Palladium Theatre, Stuttgart	Alex Timbers
Wave	Nottingham Playhouse	Natasha Holmes
Atlantis	Live Art Bistro, Leeds	Lydia Cottrell
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (UK Tour)	West Yorkshire Playhouse	James Brining
Rapunzel	Liverpool Everyman	Mark Chatterton
75 Dorothys	Irregular Arts	Shanaz Gulzar
Up and Down	Gaga Theatre - Oliver Jeffers	Matt Aston
Richard III	Nottingham Playhouse	Loveday Ingram
Charlie Peace	Nottingham Playhouse	Giles Croft
Guantanamo Boy	Brolly Productions Tour	Dominic Hingorani
The Noise	Unlimited Theatre	Jon Spooner
Aladdin	Liverpool Everyman	Mark Chatterton
Kes	Cast, Doncaster	Kully Thiari
Piano Circus - Trilogies	Kings Place, London	Piano Circus
The Mamba	West Yorkshire Playhouse	Kully Thiari
Diary of a Football Nobody	Nottingham Playhouse	Matt Aston
Treasure Island	Mind the Gap - Tour	Tim Wheeler
Of Mice and Men	National Tour	Tim Wheeler

Selected TV, Film and Video Credits

Project	Credit	Dir / Client / Commission info
The Pearl Island, Qatar (TV Series) (Ep 1, 2, 3, 4)	Editor	Al Jazeera, SpunGold TV. Exec: Nick Samuel Smith
Our Lives: Building Our Street (TV Doc – S6, Ep10)	Editor	BBC 1, Candour Productions. Dir: Sally Ogden
Second Hand for 50 Grand (TV Series) (Ep 1, 2, 3)	Editor	Channel 4, Wise Owl Films. Dir Richard Macer
You Do You (TV Series) (Ep 1, 2, 3, 4)	Editor	Channel 4, Interstellar. Dir Natasha Bardusco
A Day in the Life of Coronavirus Britain (TV Doc)	UGC Logger	Channel 4, Candour Productions. Dir: Anna Hall
Soldiering On	Editor	Channel 4. Dir: Tim Wheeler
Born Survivor – Katy (TV Doc)	Editor	BBC 3. Dir: Will Simpson
Kite Strings (Short)	Editor	Undivided Pictures. Dir: Kirsty Ward
Live & Wild (Multiple Short Form Docs & BTS)	Editor	Candour Productions. Dir: Patricia Doherty
Shell EV (TVC)	Offline Editor	BraveSpark. Dir: Harry Smith
BOXT – Good Morning Great Britain (TVC)	Offline Editor	Uber Agency. Dir: Greg Clark
Tombola – I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here (TVC)	Offline Editor	Uber Agency. Dir: Greg Clark
Tombola – Netherlands Launch (TVC)	Offline Editor	Uber Agency. Dir: Greg Clark
Big Phillies (TVC)	Shooting Director / Editor	Big Phillies. Dir: Chantelle Davis
No1 Traveller (TVC)	Shooting Director / Editor	Dir: Phil Cameron
Total Fitness “FitnessMyWay” (TVC)	Editor	Loaf Agency, Dir: Dave Mullen
World Wildlife Foundation 50th	Editor	WWF & Big Picture TV
Holly Hendry - Sculpture by Women since 1945	Shooting Director / Editor	Arts Council Collection
Rana Begum - Sculpture by Women since 1945	Shooting Director / Editor	Arts Council Collection
Jump the Fire - Melt Yourself Down	Shooting Director / Editor	The Leaf Label
Caro in Yorkshire	Shooting Director / Editor	Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle
Irresistible	Shooting Director / Editor	Mind the Gap
David Storey: A Tender Tumult	Shooting Director / Editor	The Hepworth Wakefield
Stanley Spencer: Of Angles and Dirt	Shooting Director / Editor	The Hepworth Wakefield
Stephen Sutcliffe: Twixt Cup and Lip	Shooting Director / Editor	The Hepworth Wakefield
About Bill Viola	Shooting Director / Editor	Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Roger Hiorns, Seizure	Shooting Director / Editor	ACC Southbank Centre
Garth Evans	Shooting Director / Editor	ACC Southbank Centre
Anish Kapoor	Shooting Director / Editor	ACC Southbank Centre
Structure and Material	Shooting Director / Editor	ACC Southbank Centre
Thomas Houseago	Shooting Director / Editor	Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle
The Gathering	Shooting Director / Editor	Arts Council Collection
Group Photo	Shooting Director / Editor	Pavilion. Dir: Claire Hope
John Frankland installs	Shooting Director / Editor	Arts Council Collection
MSQ (Brand Films) Childline, Asda Money, Royal Mail & Zalando	Editor	MSQ Agency
Skrill meets Leeds United Geldhart	Editor	Skrill
Tour de France, Grand Depart Promo	Shooting Director / Editor	LCC, Tour de France

Installation & Exhibitions

Endless Means	Leeds Industrial Museum	2018
Rising Sun	Liverpool Tall Ships Festival	2018
The Fragmented Light Orchestra	Opera North, ACE	2017 - Ongoing
Rising Sun	Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival	2017
Secret Life of Trees	Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival	2016
The Megaphone Box	Hull Freedom Festival	2015

Publishing

Bright 2	Theatre of Illumination focus and 12 page profile	Frame Publishing	2016
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Awards

Best Production	Soldering On	Oska Film Festival	2016
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Selected Press

“Show stopping!”

– British Art Show 8. Theatre of Illumination

“A stage that is atmospherically dominated by a fan-shaped kite complete with a rear screen for William Simpson’s evocative projections” ★★★★★

– Mark Shenton, The Stage. The Kite Runner

“Moods and vistas are enhanced by William Simpson’s evocative video projections”

– Alfred Hickling, Guardian. Of Mice and Men, National tour

“One of my favourite things of the performance is the fantastic projections William Simpson used throughout, which really helped set the scene and had some fabulous art work involved.” ★★★★★

– North West End. The Kite Runner

“Impressive use is made of top down projection. watch and marvel!”

– Kevin Berry, The Stage. Of Mice and Men, National tour

“Elegant, minimalist design of carpets, giant kite wings and a San Francisco skyline – always looks good”

– Lyn Gardner, Guardian. The Kite Runner