# SHADOWS: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

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| Christopher Bruce<br><br>Phoenix Dance Company | **Starting Points** | **Arvo Part's Fratres for violin and piano** was the starting point for the work.<br><br>**An exploration of a family dynamic**, examining the relationships between each member (son, daughter, mother and father) as they deal with an unseen but ever-present outside force. | |
| | **Choreo-graphic Intent** | The world of a small family, possibly set in Eastern Europe (though this is left up to individual interpretation) coming to terms with deprivation, poverty and the realities of what lies outside their intimate family home. | |
| | **Structure** | Semi-narrative. The form of the piece allows each member of the family to speak…. They all have their moment and they all have their different characters. | |
| **Lighting** | The opening | Low intensity lighting<br><br>Side lighting | **Links to the stimulus**….shows that the family live in poverty and have very little as they wait in the darkness.<br><br>**Defines the space / enhances the set / highlights dancers….**Suggests a small indoor space. Helps create intimate mood. |
| | The Son's solo | a low intensity blue light appears from upstage right to down stage left, throwing a beam of light that suggests the door is open. | **Creates a pathway….**Suggests the son's fear of what is outside the house / that the 'not knowing' is scary. |
| | The ending | Low intensity lighting fading to black out | **Supports narrative / symbolic….**Suggests the family are still awaiting their fate. |

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| **Aural Setting** | Start of each section | There is a repeated chord in a low key that marks the end of each section. | Supports the structure of the dance. |
| | When each character dances | Contrasting dynamics in the music (fast / calmer) | The dynamics of the music support each character.<br><br>Anxious and angry children help to show they are young, whilst calmer and more controlled for the parents help to show they are handling the situation as adults. |
| | Key | The music is in a minor key | Supports the mood of the characters.<br><br>In the daughter's solo, the violins play rapid , agitated shrieking notes which suggest the anxiety and fear of the daughter. |
| **Movement** | **The Son's solo** | The son is holding a stool. He reaches DSR and suddenly swings the stool above his head.He crouches down behind the table.<br>The dancer travels frantically towards and away from the 'door' on a diagonal pathway, moving the set to create a barrier. | Suggests the son's fear of what is outside the house / that the 'not knowing' is scary. |
| | **The daughters solo** | The daughter moves frantically between DSR and back to the table where she performs a plank on the stools and leans on the table. | This interaction with the props could suggest the sadness and difficulty she is feeling due to the hardships of poverty and fear.<br><br>The changes in position and levels on the stage suggest her anxiety and fear. |

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| | **The parents duet** | the mood is calmer and more peaceful and they dance in a ballroom hold | This suggests that they are dealing with the situation as adults and could also hint back to happier times in their lives. |
| **Relationships** | **End of the father / mother duet** | Contact | The mother stands in between her son/daughter and puts her arms around their shoulders. This shows their relationship and her care and maternal support for them. |
| | **Quartet towards the end** | **Mirroring** | The father dances with the son and the mother with the daughter. The pairs face each other and drop into a lunge, mirroring their movements.<br><br>This moment show the family unit with mother and father both supporting the children as they move into the inevitability of the final section where they meet their fate. |
| **Choreographic Devices** | **Opening** | Repetition | Repeated slow turning of the head when the family, seated look towards downstage right as though aware of something or someone outside their door. This helps our understanding of the narrative and creates a tense mood. |
| | **Sons Solo** | Motif development | Motif of son banging his fists on the floor is developed with a change of facing (he rolls and lies on his back). This helps to show the emotions of his character - frustration and anger at the situation.. |
| | **Sons solo** | Climax | A low pitched chord on piano. Son picks up stool and runs along the diagonal pathway of light. This suggests he is angry / afraid |

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| | | | and feels he should protect his family. |
| **Costume** | | Mother wears full length dress with short sleeves. Muted colours, floral print - 1930's - 40's style. Loose fitting<br><br>Daughter wears shorter grey skirt and short sleeve white blouse<br><br>Son wears a long sleeve white shirt and grey trousers. Oversized coats put on at the end.<br><br>Father wears dark grey trousers, collarless pinstripe shirt and a waistcoat. | Shows the historical era that the dance is set in.<br>Adds to the fluid dynamics of the movement<br>The floral pattern and length of dress shows the character's age and is more maternal. Shows gender of characters.<br><br>Muted grey colour could show deprivation and poverty. Shows character's age as being younger<br>The colours of these costumes hint at a school uniform. Oversized coats worn at the end also show family living in poverty.<br><br>Enhances character, making dancer appear older. Costume typical of historical era. |
| **Physical Setting & Props** | 4 seats / stools higher for the children.<br><br>Minimal furnishings<br><br>Suitcases | Supports the stimulus of a family unit / suggests indoor setting in family home<br><br>Suggests poverty<br><br>Link to the era. Work with the choreography to create a highlight moment at the end. Suggests the family are being taken away to a place unknown | |
| | in the son's solo as he drags the table and | Enhances the choreography | |

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| | stools across the stage as though to create a barricade to keep the world out. | |
| | The set is a black box set | Enhances the white side lighting<br><br>It stands out on the black background & creates shadows<br><br>This also adds to the tense mood / atmosphere |