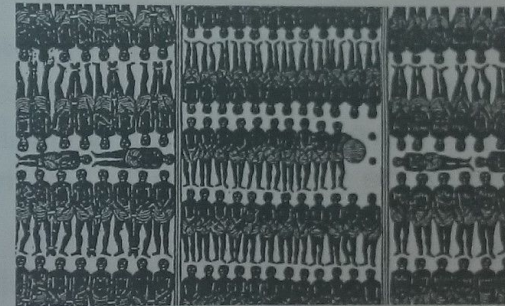
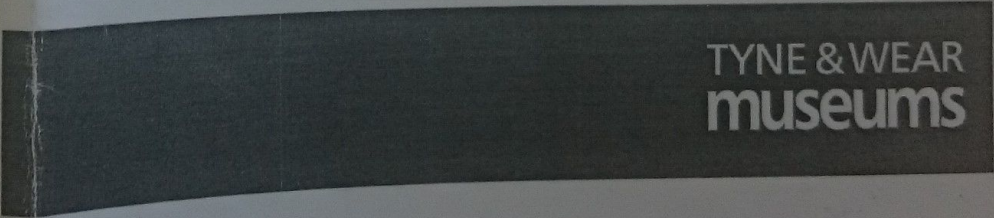


Freedom



RENAISSANCE
NORTH EAST
museums for
changing lives



Freedom is a collaboration between Tyne & Wear Museums, Dance City, professional artists, performers and community groups from across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

The performance consists of creative writing, dance, music and visuals inspired by collections relating to slavery and the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the slave trade in the British colonies.

North Seaton "Get Together" Group

Sens

Sheree Mack

Sight Service Drummers

Sunderland African Association

Tomsounds

Two Worlds Dance Group

Drummed Up

The Performers

African Group North Tyneside

Fighting Fit

Futures Plus

Garner Harris

Jambo Africa

Kumasi

Nansady

North East of England Refugee
Service
(NERS Youth Integration Project)

Freedom performance
(This performance will last approx 50 minutes)

Kuku

Arrival of the slave traders

I shall defend my house of laughter

The Caribbean Landing

The passage

My culture

Plantation fields

Sugar dance

Hard work

Lullaby

Liberte

Finale

Background to Freedom

Kuku - A popular rhythm played at harvest festival, which represents a free African society before the slave trade.

Arrival of the slave traders - All along the Senegalese coast and the Gambian river slaves were transported from forts and trading posts.

I shall defend my house of laughter – This piece has been created by poet and writer, Sheree Mack and The Sunderland African Association. The poem presents an African voice to the resistance of slavery, exploring ideas and attitudes about freedom and the realities of ownership. It connects the legacy of slavery to contemporary issues of human rights and 'forced' migration; recognising hope and change through the courage of African freedom fighters.

The Caribbean Landing - The Caribbean was an area where enslaved people produced goods like coffee, sugar and cocoa, which were then taken to Britain and America. We have created a music piece inspired by the rhythms and beats of the Caribbean people.

The Passage - An image of a slave ship illustrating how enslaved people were transported on ships had a particular resonance with the performers. This piece explores the enslaved Africans' journey across the Atlantic, often called the Middle Passage. The voyage could last up to six months and the enslaved people were crammed into the ship's hold in unimaginable conditions.

My Culture - This piece has been created by The African Group, North Tyneside - a newly formed group of African women from all over North Tyneside. The group have been working with creative writer, Sheree Mack to produce creative writing pieces for the Freedom performance. These pieces are inspired by the themes of Freedom and Revolution.

Plantation fields / Sugar dance - The first scene concentrates on labour in the plantation fields and explores the quieter moments illustrating the support that the slaves would have given each other. The second part focuses on the choices people have as consumers. Drawing inspiration from the commodities that were produced by slaves, we hope this section will make people question present day consumer power and ethics.

Hard work / Lullaby / Liberte - The first three pieces are traditional African dance and song. The final piece is Liberte, a rhythm created to celebrate Guinea's independence. Liberte calls to Africa for peace, freedom and unity.