

MEANING IN THE MAKING

AN VIBRANT SPECTACULAR OF MIND, HAND, AND HEART

Concept, story, and creative direction
by Garrett Parrish

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Shows:
September 3rd, 2017 at 6:30pm
September 3rd, 2017 at 10:00pm

Last Revision (9/1/2017)

PRE-SHOW

A starry night scene is depicted through projection on side screens and through etherial celestial music. A pyre of logs is located at one end of the hall. Audience members enter the hall approximately 10 minutes prior to the performance and sit in two designated areas.

PROLOGUE

DURATION: APPROX 1:00

Dramatic celestial opening lighting sequence.

Focus on single man silhouetted against the large mural.

Man walks through audience towards pyre of logs.

FEMALE VOICEOVER: Humankind. We began at the mercy of Nature, and what we observed, we remembered. We then learned to control the elements, and what we made became the first technologies. And our crowning discovery, how to harness fire, set ablaze our ingenuity and carried us into the future; from that moment on, the story of humanity became the story of technology.

OPENING: THE FIRE OF HUMAN DISCOVERY

DURATION: APPROX 1:30

Three clicks of flint ignite a dance of fire where smoke, projection, and fiery ribbon dancers perform choreography.

The fire spreads to the side video screens which come to show a montage of technological achievements throughout history up until 2017.

The montage builds to a final grand reveal of the MIT seal.

PART ONE: THE PROCESS OF MIND AND HAND

DURATION: APPROX 3:30

PRESIDENT REIF: For more than 150 years, the MIT community has answered fundamental questions and solved important problems. As students, you will gain a deeper understanding of the world around you. And you will apply that knowledge to society's greatest challenges. Together, with our minds and our hands, we will make a better world.

Dancers are introduced silhouetted behind the large side projection screens. One by one, they come alive with motions and actions that gesturally exemplify “Mind” and “Hand”.

As the dancers assume final “Mind” and “Hand” poses, attention is drawn to the MIT Seal where a montage of MIT students and faculty carrying out the “Mind” and “Hand” process is shown. The montage ends with drone footage of MIT’s campus.

PART TWO: A PRISM OF HEART

DURATION: APPROX 2:30

FEMALE VOICEOVER: Innovation that makes a difference also requires something less tangible; the heart, a prism that refracts the light of our inspiration into powerful, vibrant color. When we encompass our work inside that prism and use our rainbow of emotions, kindness becomes the motor, fear becomes the anchor, joy becomes the pulley. And it makes the results not just powerful... meaningful.

Dancers assume DaVinci poses behind all screens as a glowing prism is projected on their silhouettes. On “kindness”, “fear”, and “joy”, pairs of dancers come to life to assume relevant emotional poses.

Dancers enter the audience and happily dance towards the stage. On blackout, backlights illuminate intricately designed and specifically colored UV-painted shirts. Dancers perform a dance of color.

On percussive musical cues, dancers leave the stage and travel behind it. They slowly erect a giant LED prism around the MIT seal.

Lights mechanically spiral around the seal and ignite it with light. Light and color spill out of the seal onto the mural.

PART THREE: A FUTURE OF MEANING
DURATION: APPROX 4:30

As color spreads across the hall, a video montage of meaningful technologies lights up the mural.

Colored smoke and all the color enters a spiral and snakes down into a torch that a dancer is holding.

Dancer holds the colored flame up and is approached by other dancers.

Dancers light baskets full of prisms and begin to walk and hand them out to the audience.

FEMALE VOCALIST:

THE KNOWLEDGE IN YOUR MIND
AND THE SKILL OF YOUR HAND
CAN BUILD A NEW TOMORROW
THAT'S PRACTICED AND PLANNED

verse

BUT WHEN YOU BRING IN
YOUR WARMTH, HOPE, AND JOY
AND YOUR GRIEF, DOUBT, AND FEAR
CREATION BECOMES AN ACT OF LOVE
AND ANSWERS BECOME FAR MORE CLEAR

verse

THE EASY ROAD
IS WORTH FORSAKING
ITS ONLY LIGHT
IS BLACK AND WHITE
THE HARDER ROAD
IS WORTH THE TAKING
AND LETS YOUR WORK TAKE FLIGHT

pre-chorus

SO COLOR THE NIGHT
COLOR THE DAY
COLOR WHAT YOU CREATE
LABORING ALONE
DOING ONLY WHAT YOU'VE KNOWN
CAN'T MAKE A TOOL FROM STONE

chorus

COLOR YOUR WORLD
COLOR YOUR WORLD
WITH MEANING

COLOR THE EARTH
COLOR THE SKY
COLOR YOUR PRECIOUS LIFE
STARTING TODAY
LET YOUR HEART LEAD THE WAY
AND SHINE THROUGH ALL THE GRAY

chorus

COLOR YOUR WORLD
COLOR YOUR WORLD
COLOR YOUR WORLD
COLOR YOUR WORLD
WITH MEANING

A growing spectacle of lights, music, and effects fills the hall.

Three final focuses: 'mens' figure on seal, 'manus' figure on seal, enclosing prism.

A final percussive note launches colored streamers into the audience.

POST SHOW

FEMALE VOICEOVER: We hope you enjoyed Meaning in the Making. We'd like to thank everyone who made this show spectacular; our generous sponsors and our team of over thirty MIT students, faculty, and community members who used their minds, hands, and hearts to make this evening possible. Those tokens in your hands are yours to take home as a gesture of gratitude and inspiration. Join us for refreshments below the mural and have a wonderful night.