

A woman in a light-colored dress carries a large, heavy, woven basket on her back. The basket is made of a complex lattice of wooden or bamboo strips, with a checkered pattern visible on its sides. To her right, a shirtless man in dark pants and brown boots strikes a dynamic pose, with one arm raised and his head tilted back. The scene is lit from the side, casting long shadows on the floor. The title 'BURDEN HALVED' is overlaid in large white letters across the center.

BURDEN HALVED

A FILM BY
KITTY MCNAMEE + LARA SCHNITGER



SYNOPSIS

Four dancers, burdened by the weight of migration, find comfort when their isolated experiences converge in a lush, emotionally charged exchange.

Lara Schnitger's sculptural packs and Flea's solo bass extrapolation amplify the intensity of their journey.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film is a true collaboration between myself and artist Lara Schnitger.

The moment I first encountered artist Lara's sculptural packs I saw them in motion – their stories resonating through dancers' bodies, not sitting in gallery silence. Lara was spurred to create the sculptures in response to witnessing the current migrant crisis first hand on a recent trip to Europe. Constructed with fabric culled from the lining of vintage suitcases and slim wooden sticks, the packs evoke both physical and emotional rootlessness. We wanted to find an organic intersection of sculpture and dance, body and spirit to explore those themes. With our incredible cast of dancers diving deep into the story and pulling from existing relationships, we collectively created our own world. Flea was equally inspired by Lara's work and scored "Burden Halved" as a solo bass extrapolation. Having Flea's creative response to the visual narrative of the completed picture was a revelation, it completely transformed the film and brought it fully to life.

Our film traces the journey of four dancers struggling to manage their individual burdens. Only when they come together are they freed of the weight they each carry.

Lara, Flea and I are humbled to have creatively connected with the dancers on this project, generating a story imbued with beauty, struggle and ultimately hope.



BURDEN HALVED

CREDITS

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Director + Choreographer – Kitty McNamee

Art Direction + Sculptures – Lara Schnitger

Solo Bass Extrapolation – Flea

Dancers – Raymond Ejiofor, Reshma Gajjar, Derek Schiesel, Zak Ryan Schlegel

Editor – Lori Lovoy-Goran

Director of Photography – Pavel Yatsenko

Producers – Kitty McNamee + Lara Schnitger

Associate Producer – Julie Schmid

1st Assistant Camera – Majd Mazin

Still Photographer – Meeno Peluce

Production Assistants – Miyuki Kawamura + Kourtnie Labay

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