

# EXTENDING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THEATRE

## OVERVIEW

The National Theatre (NT) in London is a world-class theatrical institution that uses digital innovation and dynamic storytelling to support its ambitions of reaching the widest audience possible.

The NT worked with Accenture UK's Extended Reality team to pioneer a communal musical Virtual Reality experience, paving the way for future NT theatrical performances.

[All Kinds of Limbo](#) features ground-breaking VR technologies, bringing to life a captivating 3D world. The result is an intimate, immersive and life-size performance that allows audiences to roam the virtual space and view the experience from any angle.

## THE CHALLENGE

### The evolution of theatre

The NT recognises that the future of theatre will increasingly involve Extended Reality technologies. As the NT's Partner for Innovation, Accenture was approached to support them in pioneering an immersive virtual experience, paving the way for future NT theatrical performances.

An opportunity was seen in the NT's staging of Andrea Levy's book *Small Island*, to create an immersive, virtual extension, reflecting on the positive influence of mixed heritages in contemporary society. Audiences would be taken through a musical journey inspired by the influence of West Indian culture on the UK's music scene; from calypso to grime.

## HOW WE HELPED

### Combining cutting-edge technologies to create a communal VR experience

Accenture UK's Extended Reality team brought their digital and immersive technology expertise to harness the NT's creativity and help shape the vision of the project; a one-of-a-kind communal musical VR experience.

Using human centred design, previsualisations and rapid iteration techniques, Accenture and other creative partners brought the NT's vision to life in a stylised 3D environment.

Performers were filmed using ground-breaking high-end volumetric capture and green screen technology.

Accenture developed a bespoke media server that continuously monitored the status of the cutting-edge untethered VR headsets, selected for the project, by accessing the headsets' in-built World Sense technology. The media server tracked users' positions, relaying them back in real time, to represent audience members with an avatar in the virtual space. By combining volumetric capture with the untethered headsets, audiences would be able to roam through the experience, viewing the performance from any angle.

## THE RESULT

### An immersive virtual experience unlike anything seen before

*All Kinds of Limbo* invites audiences to step inside a virtual musical performance.

Featuring boundary-pushing volumetric capture and communal VR technology, *All Kinds of Limbo* represents a first for the NT and supports their ambition to reach new audiences using digital innovation. The off-stage production is an intimate, immersive and life-size performance that merges technology and creativity.

An audience of up to 20 people at a time can experience the performance using VR headsets, immersing themselves into a captivating 3D world, which includes a lead performer, musicians, lighting and set-design.

While taken on a musical journey through calypso to grime, the audience is encouraged to move around the virtual space, enabled by Accenture's bespoke media server. Audience members are represented by an avatar in the virtual environment.

[All Kinds of Limbo](#) ran at the National Theatre from June 2019 - September 2019. [Watch the Client Case Study Video.](#)

## CASE STUDY: ALL KINDS OF LIMBO

