

IMPROVISATION PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM

Workshops, Exchange & performances

Date: 21 Nov – 7 Dec 2014
Venue: Critical Path, The Drill Hall, Rushcutters Bay
Partners: *Immediations: Art, Media and Event, Strut Dance, the Weather Exchange, Dance 4 and Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts.*

Improvisation raises many issues around the nature of choreography, performance & authorship. In the relationship between improvisation & other approaches to choreography the themes of authenticity, presence, habit & technique become foregrounded. The symposium encourages dance makers, researchers and trans-disciplinary practitioners from diverse traditions to explore these different strands, to learn from each other in an environment that stimulates discussion & the trading of skills.

The symposium program is still unfolding, however to give a flavor of what is in store in Sydney, workshops will be offered include impro- exchange with Martin del Amo, Kate Champion, Alice Cummins, Victoria Hunt, Tony Osborne, Alejandro Rolandi, Dean Walsh, Ros Warby, Rosalind Crisp, Andrew Morrish and Jondi Keane with performances by Ros Warby, Andrew Morrish, Rosalind Crisp. A presentation by Tess De Quince and Frank Van de Ven. Two Performance Evenings will be curated by Ryuichi Fujimura and Emma Saunders. Critical Path is partnering with the Mini MoveMe festival produced by Strut Dance to create a shared real-time exchange spanning from Sydney to Perth, Bangalore and Nottingham. The Symposium will be co-organised by Martin del Amo and Caterina Mocchiola.

The symposium workshops are not only for dancers, musicians with an improvisational practice are encouraged to join the practice based workshops. Andrew Morrish and Jondi Kean's seminars which will practically explore the philosophical notion of what it is to improvise are open as numbers are limited priority will be given to practice based workshop participants. If you are keen to present a studio performance within one of the three open performance evenings please express interest. Please note there are no fees or budget for these presentations.

WORKSHOPS

This is an initial call for Expressions of Interest to participate in the Workshop program. EOIs are due on 10 November.

Practice based workshops are open to choreographers/dancers/musicians and are limited to 15 people each. Each workshop will run for one or two days. You can participate in more than one practice workshop selections will be based on the information provided in your EOI and on demand. The seminar series will run over three afternoons however you can attend one, two or three of the sessions.

Registrations

1 workshop \$30

2 or more workshops \$50

Registration includes entrance to the performances by Rosalind Crisp and Ros Warby.

Ticketed events

Unwrapping dance, performed by Rosalind Crisp

TWO SOLOS, Ros Warby

\$10 concession

\$15 full

All other evening events are free

The final program will be released in November 2014.

Co-coordinators

Martin del Amo, originally from Germany, is a Sydney-based choreographer and dancer with 20 years of experience as solo artist, improviser and choreographer of works for others. He regularly teaches and extensively works as consultant, mentor and dramaturg. Martin also writes, frequently contributing to *RealTime* magazine.

Caterina Mocciola is a Sydney-based independent dancer and choreographer. Her practice is grounded in Contact Improvisation (CI), Improvisation and cross-disciplinary collaborations. She teaches nationally and internationally, produces workshops, facilitates the Underscore and the Contemplative Dance Practice. She is the founder of the Contact Improvisation *Sydney Sunday Jam*.

WORKSHOP: KATE CHAMPION

To date, Kate Champion has used improvisational techniques to form the basis of the material for all the major works created by Force Majeure. Recently Kate has been exploring the notion of 'distilling the gesture' – an investigation into the disciplined use of everyday physical gestures within a honed awareness of composition and theatrical context. Kate will explore these approaches during her workshop within the Symposium at Critical Path.

WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING AN ENSEMBLE PRACTICE with ALICE CUMMINS

This workshop will encourage a practice of self-inquiry as we generate, compose and improvise together. Beginning with a practice of attunement, somatic investigation will be used to encourage and facilitate original ways of moving, refine technique and develop sensitivity, awareness and relationship to space.

Alice has a twenty-year history of creating improvisational performances her work is informed by her studies of Body-Mind Centering, new dance practices, and feminist philosophy.

www.alicecummins.com

WORKSHOP: ROSALIND CRISP

Rosalind will introduce her practice of *choreographic improvisation*, a dynamic set of principles and practical tools which guide the attention of the dancer to her dancing, to the moment of decision-making.

Rosalind Crisp has developed her practice over twenty years, firstly at the Omeo Dance studio in Sydney, which she established in 1996 and then in Paris where she has been the associate artist of the Atelier de Paris - Carolyn Carlson. She currently works half the year in Europe and half in Australia, based in Marlo, East Gippsland.

IMPRO-EXCHANGE: MARTIN DEL AMO

Building on previous laboratories between 2006 and 2013, Impro-Exchange 2014 is a series of two intensive three-day labs, the November workshop is facilitated by Martin del Amo.

The project aims to further explore the nature of improvisation between dancers from different backgrounds, ages and traditions and to generate a forum of dialogue, exchange and discussion around strategies and processes of improvisation.

WORKSHOP: VICTORIA HUNT

This workshop will explore the transformative body, guided by principles emerging from Body Weather and Butoh sensitivities. Tapping into the ever-shifting present, we will also explore a range of spatial provocations that invite one to delve into the slippages between the tangible and intangible.

Victoria Hunt (AU) is an independent dancer and choreographer. Her recent piece *Copper Promises*, an emotional exploration of her Maori background, has secured a prestigious Helpmann award nomination.

WORKSHOP: TONY OSBORNE

This workshop explores the integration of sound, movement and spoken word.

Tony Osborne has been improvising dance, theatre and sound for 25 years and has facilitated improvisation workshops in Australia since 2002. Recent performance projects include Life Support in 2013 Dance Massive festival, Roman Ondak's Swap (Kaldor Art Projects, 13 Rooms 2013 & Sydney Festival 2014) and vocalist with Splinter Orchestra.

WORKSHOP: DEAN WALSH

The Breathing Helps workshop will be jumping off and jamming deep down into improvisational modality-transformations that hang about in open water fathoming vast spatial meditations and occasionally resurfacing from metaphorical deep sea pretending to not be lost at it, see? Bring your fins and flight of fancy.

Dean Walsh (AU) is a Sydney-based dancer & contemporary performance practitioner with more than twenty years' experience in performing, choreographing, teaching and workshop facilitation.

WORKSHOP: ROS WARBY

This workshop provides approaches and tools that enable a refinement of focus on the practice of performance. The work encourages the dancer to eliminate attachment to prescribed techniques or choreographic approaches and invites the body to undo any pre-conceived notions of what dance is, thereby creating a chance for the dancer to express a complex and indefinable range of experience through the humour, intelligence and emotional engagement of the dancing body. This work challenges the dancer to wake up and notice what it is they are doing in their dance. This shift in attention aims to stimulate the intelligence of the dancer, and, in turn, elevate their level of engagement in both performance and dance making.

Ros Warby is cited as one of Australia's leading solo dancer/choreographers. She has been creating and performing solo dance since 1990 and her award winning work has been presented in Australia, Europe and throughout the USA.

SEMINAR SERIES: ANDREW MORRISH and JONDI KEANE

Andrew and Jondi will facilitate three seminars to practically explore the philosophical notion of what it is to improvise.

Andrew Morrish began performance improvisational work, Al Wunder's Theatre of the Ordinary in Melbourne in 1982. In 1987 he co-founded the improvisational movement theatre duet 'Trotman and Morrish'. In 2002 he relocated his work to Europe and now teaches and performs extensively in France, Nederland, Germany, Switzerland and the UK.

Dr Jondi Keane is an arts practitioner, critical thinker and senior lecturer at Deakin University. Over the last 3 decades he has exhibited, performed and published in the USA, UK, Europe and Australia.

EXTENDING PRACTICE: Immediations: Art, Media and Event

Members of the **Immediations: Art, Media and Event** team of investigators led by Erin Manning and Brian Massumi from Montreal, Canada with Jondi Keane, Deakin University will join the workshops. The Immediations team participation in the symposium forms part of their research into the intersection of different practices both linguistic and non-linguistic (sound, image, movement, embodied interaction).

Immediations: Art, Media and Event bring together an international team of investigators from local institutions including UNSW (COFA), RMIT, Deakin and Artspace.

EVENING PROGRAM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Performances, Studio Showings, Jams, in conversation in the Drill Hall

SUSPENSION OF TIME AND SPACE

CHOREOGRAPHERS MEET VIA THE INTERNET Alejandro Rolandi will work some internet magic with Google hangouts to link Strut Dance and Critical Path. Streamed in real-time from dusk to dawn Tony Osborne - Sydney, Andrew Morrish and Peter Trotman - Perth, Hemabharathy Palani - India with Sally Doughty and Miranda Wheen in the UK will virtually meet crossing time and space joining in conversation sharing their approaches to improvisation. Sydney at 8.30 pm, Perth at 5.30 pm, Bangalore at 3.30 pm and the UK at 9.30 am you can join each location in person or via the web by an invitation link from the Critical Path website.

Miranda Wheen (NSW) is an independent dancer and choreographer.

Hemabharathy Palani (IN) is a Bosch Choreography Award winner and a senior dancer, teacher and rehearsal director at Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Bangalore and a prominent figure among the emerging new choreographers of contemporary India.

Attakkalari is South Asia's premier organization in the field of contemporary movement arts.

www.attakkalari.org

Sally Doughty – (dance 4 to provide)

Dance 4 - (dance 4 to provide)

BAT IN THE CAVE, an exploration around choreographed improvisation.

Curated by Emma Saunders with invited guests.

"My plan is to create and curate a one off evening that continues to explore how improvisation takes place and what defines it" Emma Saunders

Emma Saunders works as a dance artist, teacher and curator, and is currently working on a solo project *SCISSORS PAPER ROCK LIZARD SPOCK!* for Sydney Festival 2015 through Urban Theatre Projects, where she will choreograph a new, universal hokey pokey for the 21st century on the Bankstown community. She co-founded Sydney based dance trio The Fondue Set with Elizabeth Ryan and Jane McKernan. She is a mother of two.

Unwrapping d a n s e, performed by Rosalind Crisp. In a performed-dance-discussion

Rosalind exposes aspects of her continually evolving project, **d a n s e**, and **dances** and talks about what she is doing and how her practice is sustained and transformed over time.

BODYWEATHER IMPROVISATIONS.

A presentation by Tess de Quincey and **Frank Van de Ven** including **Peter Fraser, Victoria Hunt and Linda Luke.** **add bios**

Peter Fraser has worked with Tess de Quincey since 1990 and has been a longstanding member of the De Quincey Co ensemble. His performances span the city and the desert from Square of Infinity in Lake Mungo in 1992 to Triple Alice Laboratories 1999-2001 in the Central Desert and more recently in *FIVE Short Solos* at Performance Space in 2005, *Dictionary of Atmospheres* in Alice Springs in 2005, *Impro-Lab: Transparencies* at Sydney Opera House in 2006 and then in Melbourne at fortyfivedownstairs in 2007.

Linda Luke holds a degree in BA in Communications, University of Technology – Sydney (1998) and has worked in theatre and dance-performance since 1997. Linda joined De Quincey Co in 2004 and recent productions include *Triptych*, Performance Space at Carriageworks (2008), *Five Short Solos*, Performance Space (2005) and *Dictionary of Atmospheres*, Alice Springs Festival (2005). Frank Van de Ven

Tess de Quincey is a choreographer and dancer who has worked extensively in Australia and Europe as a solo performer, teacher and director. Based in Japan from 1985 until 1991, she was a dancer for 6 years with butoh artist **Min Tanaka** and his **Mai-Juku** performance group which has provided the strongest influence on her work in performance.

Frank Van de Ven

CONTACT IMPROVISATION FACILITATED PRACTICE facilitated by Alejandro Rolandi

Contact Improvisation celebrates the spontaneous interplay between dancers seeking to remain in physical contact as they improvise together.

This open-to-all practice session will begin with a 1hr-long guided warm-up, aimed at introducing some basic skills to those new to Contact and to provide a starting framework for those with experience.

From that point, the session will become self guided, opening the space for the practitioners to move in and out of the dance floor as they find inspiration for solo, duet and group dancing. Sometimes moving to music and at other times in silence.

People are invited to observe the session and are welcome to "quietly" arrive or leave when they wish.

Alejandro Rolandi is a visual and performing artist, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina. He studied electronic engineering and has had training in dance, acting and physical theatre. Alejandro is Director of Strings Attached Physical Theatre Company.

CONVERSATIONS hosted by Martin del Amo

Critical Path Artist Representative Martin del Amo leads casual conversations with fellow dance artists about their approach to improvisation and the role it plays within the context of their choreographic practices.

TWO SOLOS, Ros Warby will perform *As Holy Sites Go* choreographed by Deborah Hay and her current work in development.

WHIP IT, Curated by Ryuichi Fujimura

WHIP IT began as a platform for movement-based improvisation performance in Sydney in 2006. Held on a regular basis (presently four times a year), WHIP IT features local and interstate artists. The cast and format changes each time as decided by the curatorial team (currently Nikki Heywood and Ryuichi Fujimura). WHIP IT co-curators are Nikki Heywood (performance maker) (since 2006) and Ryuichi Fujimura (dancer) (since 2010).

OPEN HOUSE hosted by Martin del Amo and Caterina Mocchiola

This closing event is loosely curated by Martin and Cat, co-coordinators of the Improvisation Practices Symposium. It will feature responses to the Symposium - both performative and verbal - by workshop facilitators, participants, curators and performers.