

Calculating Risk: assessment, ethics and risk assessment in durational and site-based performance work with/by students

Biographies

Alastair MacLennan (Emeritus Professor of Fine Art, University of Ulster)

Alastair MacLennan was born in Scotland and has lived and worked in Belfast, N. Ireland since 1975. His achievements as an artist have had a significant influence on performance art, nationally and internationally.

Performing in diverse contexts, his works convey political, social and cultural conditions. His Actuations (performance/installations) seek to fuse interrelations.

His works have (also) been presented as part of Black Market International (in Europe, America, Canada, Asia, Mexico, etc.), by Trace Gallery, Cardiff, by the National Review of Live Art, Glasgow, by Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast, by Le Lieu, Quebec, by Bone International Performance Art Festival, Bern and through NIPAF in Japan. He represented Ireland at the Venice Biennale in 1997.

Alastair has works in private collections in America, Canada, Italy, Poland, Germany, Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales and in the public collection of the British Arts Council, England.

He has received support for his works from national and international funding bodies, including AHRB (Arts and Humanities Research Board), Arts Council of N. Ireland, University of Ulster, Arts Council of Canada and the Scottish Education Department. He won the Visual Arts Category of the Belfast Arts Awards (1998), and is a recipient of a London Performance Award for outstanding creative achievement (1988), in association with Dance Umbrella and *Time Out* Magazine.

MacLennan is currently Emeritus Professor of Fine Art, from the University of Ulster, Belfast, an Honorary Fellow of Dartington College of Art, Devon and an Honorary Associate of the National Review of Live Art, Glasgow.

<http://vads.ahds.ac.uk/collections/macLennan/index.html>

Joanne 'Bob' Whalley (Senior Lecturer in Devised Theatre, University College Falmouth incorporating Dartington College of Arts)

Joanne (or 'Bob' as most people know her) completed the first joint practice as research Ph. D. to be undertaken within a UK arts discipline in 2004. Working with her research partner, Lee Miller, they explored the 'non-place' (Augé) of a particular stretch of the M6 motorway, and through various performance strategies attempted to re-inscribe it as a place of 'everyday life' (de Certeau). The project reflected upon the process of creative collaboration and knowledge production by drawing on the 'two-fold thinking' of Deleuze and Guattari. Alongside her work within the Academy, Bob continues to make site-based performance work with Lee. She continues to be interested in non-places, both in terms of writing about them and performing in them. The practical elements of her research relocates the abstract observations of Augé to the sites in which such observations apply, and encourages the development of an operational knowledge in the users of the service station, airport lounge and shopping mall. When she is not on the motorway or in airports, she works at University College Falmouth incorporating Dartington College of Arts, as Senior Lecturer in Devised Theatre. She supervises Ph. D. students working through both practice-led and traditional modes, and is a co-convenor of the Masters Programme in Devised Theatre.

Matt Smith (Senior Lecturer in Applied Theatre, University Of Portsmouth)

Matt Smith currently works as Senior Lecturer in Applied Theatre at The University of Portsmouth, UK. Previously Matt led the undergraduate Community Drama programme at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, Liverpool, UK. He is also the artistic director for PickleHerring Theatre Company. Matt has been a freelance artist for sixteen years, working in diverse

settings such as schools, prisons, **hospitals, environmental agencies, and with the homeless.** Matt's work is always eclectic, working across disciplines such as drama, puppetry, masks, and music. Matt completed his MA in Contemporary Arts at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Dominic Johnson (Lecturer in Drama, Queen Mary, University of London)

Dominic Johnson is a Lecturer in the Department of Drama, Queen Mary, University of London. He is the editor of *Franko B: Blinded by Love* (2006), and *Manuel Vason: Encounters* (2007), and publishes widely on the cultural politics of performance and visual culture. He is currently completing *Glorious Catastrophe*, a monograph on the work of Jack Smith (Manchester University Press). His performance work has been presented in the UK at the National Portrait Gallery, SPILL Festival, Chelsea Theatre and Gay Shame (London), Fierce Festival (Birmingham), and National Review of Live Art (Glasgow), and internationally, in Austria, Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia and the US.

Anna Fenemore (Lecturer in Theatre and Performance (Physical Theatre), University of Leeds)

Lecturer and Programme Manager of BA Theatre and Performance at the School of Performance and Cultural Industries, University of Leeds, specializing in Practice-as-Research, physical performance, performer bodywork training, site-specific theatre and devised performance. Research interests are spectating embodiment, performer bodywork training, multi-sensory immersive performance, performance and phenomenology, theories of performance space/place and performance and death studies. Anna is also artistic director of Manchester based Pigeon Theatre, a solo performance artist and performs for other contemporary performance companies.

Jessica Hartley (Ph. D. student, Central School of Speech and Drama)

Jessica Hartley is a student at The Central School of Speech and Drama, where she is studying for a Ph. D. entitled *Guided Practices in Facing Danger*, which explores the nature of fear in freedom-based pedagogy through practice-led research in aerial skills and clowning. She is a highly experienced secondary school teacher and has worked as a consultant for GCSE examinations as well as a Head of Department in a number of comprehensive school settings. Jessica is currently a part-time lecturer in physical theatre at Portsmouth University. Alongside this she is a trapeze artist and circus director; she has worked with a wide variety of companies including The Circus Space, Tara Arts, John Wright, David Glass and Forced Entertainment. She was a finalist for the *Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award* on four occasions between 2003 and 2009.
