

BE FESTIVAL Application

Title of the piece Meaningless Dance 13 (Empty Gestures)

Company Name Timber & Battery

Country of the companyUK

Your email paul@timberandbattery.com

Telephone 07809421749

Name of contact Paul Hughes

Role in the piece Collaborating artist - both of us are performer and director.

Duration of the piece in minutes (longer pieces must be shortened to max. 30 minutes but there is no minimum length) 15

Original length, if different 10

Language(s) of the piece N.a.

Nationalities of people working on the piece UK/IR and UK/FR

Synopsis of the piece. We may use this in our programme if your piece is selected (max. 100 words) **Meaningless Dance 13 (Empty Gestures)**

Two dancers move through a series of hand gestures sourced throughout the internet. Performed to the precise beat of a metronome, the synchronicity of the movements amplifies the hesitations and minor differences between the dancers. The gestures are stripped of their meaning - the only certainty left is the intense and material commitment of the performers to learn and reproduce them. A deceptively simple premise produces a quietly poetic and complexly intimate encounter.

Development / tour history of the piece (max. 100 words)

The piece was first presented at Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester in May 2016 as part of 'Us & Them 7'; and was further presented at 'Exhi[5]bititions' at Rich Mix, London in June 2016.

How does the piece relate to BE FESTIVAL's ethos: to cross borders (linguistic, cultural or artistic) and inspire audiences of all nationalities (max. 80 words)

As information is circulated more rapidly and widely than ever before, Empty Gestures questions how ideas spread across bodies within porous flows of meaning and appropriation. The mute gestures hover between the obscure and the internationally recognisable – but this meaning/lessness unmistakably exposes a labour of delivery, questioning what a sincere gesture might be from performer to audience. What can the performer and spectator offer one another; what commitment - to communication, interpretation or understanding - is demanded from either side?

Number of performers 2

People travelling to Birmingham (maximum: number of performers + 1. i.e two performers & one director = 3) 2

Where will you be traveling from? Please tell us for each person.

Nottingham and London

Company biography (max. 100 words)

Timber & Battery's playful work considers meaning and meaninglessness through oblique gestures. The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall (b.1990) and Paul Hughes (b.1991),

it takes place across choreographic, performance and visual arts contexts. Trained in fine art (ECA) and philosophy (University of Edinburgh), our practice is a meeting point between disciplines; a persistent and fidgeting enquiry that continually questions itself and the contexts it finds itself within.

We both maintain independent performance and dramaturgical practices, including Vlatka Horvat's 'Minor Planets' (HAU Berlin, 2017) and Ponyboy Curtis (Yard Theatre, 2015, 2016).

Significant previous work/Awards

Recent credits include a solo exhibition of performance 'Floorplan//Here or Now' at Rich Mix (London, October 2015), Attenborough Arts Centre (May 2016, Leicester), ICW (Blackpool, Jun 2017), SET me Free (Venice and London, Sep 2017), DISKURS17 (Gießen, Germany, Oct 2017), Radiophrenia (Glasgow, November 2017), and Chisenhale Dance Space (London, Dec 2017).

We have received awards from Dance on the Radio (March 2017), a choreographic commission from Third Row Dance (October 2016), and a DanceXchange DX Choreography Award (December 2017). In October 2017 we were commissioned to present an original audio installation at DISKURS17 in Giessen, Germany. We have been awarded residencies by the New Wolsey Theatre (April 2015), Hospitalfield Arts (Arbroath, November 2016) and Summer Lodge (Nottingham Trent University, July 2017).

Website www.timberandbattery.com

What kind of space does your piece ideally require? BE FESTIVAL can offer a range of performance spaces. For more information, please download 'spaces at BE.pdf'
Small studio space

Early ideas If your work is still in development, would you agree to be contacted to present the piece at 'Early Ideas', our festival scratch event? You would have the opportunity to participate in all the events like any other company and would present work of max. 15 min. No

You will be sharing the space with other companies so the time for get-ins will be limited. Technical plans should be simple and flexible. Do you have any special technical requirements? No. A general light wash. No sound/AV.

Have you applied to BE FESTIVAL before? If so, in which year and with which piece? Yes, in 2016, with the same work.

How did you learn about BE FESTIVAL? (Please be specific. eg. if you learnt about us from the internet, which website?) Facebook.

The most important part of this application is your video. So please send us the best quality footage you can. We don't consider trailers as it is impossible to assess the work properly. However we do programme pieces still in development so we are very happy to consider video of rehearsals.

Include here the link to your video <https://vimeo.com/177359138>