

Abstract

Within our artistic collaborative practice as Tempura Batter, we continually confront the question of how we stage ourselves as a pair. Rather than highlighting our differences, we have been more interested in presenting the pair as two of the same, as 'the double'. In the past, this has manifested in different modes: as a gang; as two attempting to reach unison; as uncanny doppelgangers; and most recently in the redundant reproduction of the same.

In this talk we introduce these modes by drawing distinctions between our past works. We read these differences as being determined by the legibility of the staged figures' thinking processes to an audience. Do these two figures hold independent agency, and attempt to bind themselves to the other? Do they share certain understandings or purpose, partially opaque to a spectator? Is there a singular thinking process distributed across two bodies in dialogue with itself?

The duo suggests the pair as co-laboring, offering a rich possibility of difference and juxtaposition. Rather, we explore and advocate for the duo of the same, who persist in parallel tracks, in sync with, or ignorant of each other. Rather than the meeting of the pair as a generative point of contact, the doubling of the same activity might seem unnecessary or excessive, - or as Steven Connor has theorised - redundant. What might this redundancy produce, distort or enable? What might happen when a message or gesture is simultaneously and redundantly multiplied? What might an audience or spectator understand from this?

Drawing from a broad range of artistic and philosophical engagements with the double, we establish our thinking both from and through our interdisciplinary practice and within wider discourse.

Bio

The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes, Tempura Batter's work takes place across choreographic, theatre and visual arts contexts. They have presented their research at the Forest Fringe, Edinburgh; Rich Mix, London; Institute for Applied Theatre Studies, Giessen; and the Society for Artistic Research, The Hague.