

'Attend' - Yard Application for *N.O.W* '14

'Attend' (a working title, originally 'Are You Game?') was initially developed to support and intervene on the Edinburgh performance night 'Shorts and Bloomers', in March and September 2013. Consistent throughout its various iterations has been the play between audience-as-unit and audience-as-individuals and an investigation into a fluid audience/artwork relationship, offering the audience the power to interrupt, change and destroy the event itself.

In these earlier events we have handed out letters on entry and put up posters throughout the night, providing a mixture of private and public, singular or inter-related instructions. These tasks could instigate anything from whispering messages from 'Lovehearts' sweets to neighbours, a spontaneous choir 'laughing like a musician', to an improvised air band performance. Due to the heightened awareness of individual action generated by the game, an exciting ambiguity arose between what was orchestrated and what was just general behavior. The events were energetic, unpredictable and anarchic, with various audience members elaborating upon and deviating from instruction. The work's potential has been limited, however, by the necessity of allowing the programmed performance to take precedence and so we are moved toward this opportunity in order to develop 'Attend' into a stand-alone piece.

For The Yard we would be interested in creating an entire experience composed of the varying levels of audience commitment and contributions that result from our instructions and provocations. We want to continue to develop various methods of transmitting textual instructions, in particular video projection, to evaluate how to carry the piece forward without relying on any performer to take the reins. We want to be able to provide a context of encouraged sharing and creation, owned and legitimised by the audience themselves, without any observable artist's eye being appealed to, asked permission of, or for sought approval.

The Yard would be an exciting place to develop 'Attend'. The non-traditional performance space is ideal, suggesting alternative relationships and expectations, and the ethos and philosophy of the Yard are in keeping with the ideas we are researching. We believe The Yard has a committed dialogue with its artists, audiences and neighbours, and seeks new work to explore and support these relationships. The development of this piece of work would benefit greatly from this established connection, embracing an active exchange to evolve as opposed to a traditionally closed rehearsal room.

The title 'N.O.W 14' has a great deal of resonance with us; its oddness as a physical piece of text, its punctuation and capitalisation rendering it alien, encouraging an ironic or questioned response. 'NOW' suggests the immediacy, simplicity and brute quality that 'Attend' works on – no representation, no disguise – whatever is in the room, whatever choices are made, whatever is left to drift away, composes the piece of work. Entirely unpredictable, entirely vulnerable, waiting to be disrupted, followed, seized, broken.

Artist Bios and Technical Info

Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes have created a diverse range of work in collaboration and also as individual artists. As collaborators, we are interested in instructions, spontaneity and duration and are inspired by Fluxus artists, Tim Etchells, Sophie Calle and Dora Garcia, amongst others.

Together we have devised a durational performance as part of 'JOBCENTRESUPERPLUS'; a satirical installation located in a former JobCentrePlus on Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. Observed only through a small office window, we followed a cycle of actions drawn from office ritual and life that generated and destroyed patterns of mess throughout the evening. We have also collaborated on Jamboree, a clown and buffon group performing in Edinburgh since August 2012 where we have made a series of performances exploring improvisation, failure and audience/performer complicity. We have been working on 'Attend' since March 2013.

Rohanne Udall is currently in her final year of an MA in Fine Art at Edinburgh College of Art. Her work explores the distance and observability of internal and external reactions, both in performer and audience. She has also worked closely with artist Fiona Anderson, recently co-creating a performance night 'Space to look at things' which playfully deconstructed ideas of performance, direction, and audience expectations. Over the past four years she has led and performed with alternative student theatre company Theatre Paradok on numerous productions. Further details about her work can be found at www.rohanneudall.com.

Paul Hughes has made a number of site-specific and site-responsive pieces of theatre and performance, including work at Summerhall in Edinburgh with Conflux and at Hackney City Farm with Artsadmin. He has worked as an Associate Artist with Bread Street, an immersive gaming research project with the Edinburgh School of Design Informatics. Recently, he has created a citywide intervention on the *10 Days in Dublin* festival, as well as a durational performance at the cooperative *Exchange Dublin* in response to the foreclosure notice delivered by their landlords Dublin City Council. He lives in London.

The artists we wish to be part of the ensemble are both Paul and Rohanne.

We would want to initially discuss the form of the work with The Yard early on, ideally incorporating some discussion with audiences. We would then experiment in the months beforehand, in our own space, exploring the various possibilities and ideas that emerge from these discussions. Finally allowing us to commit the two-week rehearsal period to solidly craft the work before the run. We would want to perform the piece in March or April (we can be flexible with dates in these months).

The workshops we can deliver can both be directly related to 'Attend', and the construction of artwork that avoids a traditional relationship between artists/audience, as well as clowning, task-based and durational performance.