

## **British Council Edinburgh Showcase 2019**

### **PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

**Name of the production you would like to present: \***

This

**Short description of the production (200 words): \***

Please provide a clear overview of the themes and processes behind the production instead of promotional copy.

'This' consists of two performers demonstrating and exploring two collapsible tables. Working with a restrictive script of 'this', 'that', 'here' and 'there', they use gestures of sensation and observation: tapping, rubbing, knocking, pointing. 'This' is a process of discovery, improvised around a structure, responsive to the tables unpredictability – how they ping, squeak, rock, fall, collapse.

The tonal reaches of the work hover between scientific exploration, salesman-like presentation, pedagogical introduction, childish experimentation and anxious performer. What does it mean to reveal one's body, in its fragility and exhaustion, next to the object, and ask to be gazed at? To tacitly ask if "This?" is good enough?

We are also interested in our whiteness within this work. These are white bodies standing at and over tables, appearing to define 'this' or 'that'. What does it mean to be/to take on a voice of authority? Who gets to set the subject matter, to set parameters around the table? What is the relationship between this childish glee – freedom or naivety – and subtle articulations of power?

Audiences of 'This' have expressed their pleasure, surprise, disquiet and deep engagement – particularly at the intense exploration and at the intriguing restriction on language.

**Number of people on stage: \***

2

**Total number of people touring: \***

Total:3

2 performers

1 technician (dependent on venue / need)

**Running time: \***

45

**Minimum performance area:**

~ 10m x 10m. 'This' is performed in the round, with audiences seated or standing.

**Estimated freight (volume or weight):**

20kg. 2 x folding table, with folded dimensions of 61(l) x 61(w) x 10(h)cm.

**Weekly fee: \***

Estimated cost of £3500 for 5 performances, to include artist and technician fees and production / publicity support. The performance work 'This' can be shown in gallery or exhibition spaces without any additional lighting to house or ambient light - in this instance technical support is unnecessary and we estimate a fee of £2750 (for 5 performances) to reflect this.

**Level of text-based material in the production: \***

Text-based: Light (very little or no text)

**Which of the following categories apply to the production: \***

**Please select all categories that are applicable.**

Live Art

Object Animation

Other: Choreography

**Please tell us what you consider to be the international market(s) for the production and why. \***

As an interdisciplinary practice, our work is produced within and presented across stages, galleries, studios, universities and digital spaces, and so our potential reach within these sectors internationally is broad and rich. 'This' could take place in dance and theatre festivals; in galleries that are interested in performance practice; in artist run spaces; and in regional art centres. It is a work that is transportable, both in its translation to diverse audiences and practically.

Whilst giddily playful, vibrant and accessible, our work subtly questions the fundamental, yet slippery relationship, between words, actions and power. 'This' physically performs a tension between intention, control and the unpredictability of objects, materials and the world around us. In this way, we feel 'This' has the capacity to catalyse debate beyond the specifics of place and language.

The work is ideal for touring and export ready; it is lightweight and easy to transport, with only two performers and minimal set and technical requirements. An extremely flexible work, it does not require a theatre space and can also be performed in exhibition, halls, or foyer spaces.

Over the past couple of years we have begun to establish relationships within Europe - specifically within Germany and the Netherlands. So far we have found great interest in our work from the academic, artistic and student communities; in 2017 we presented our audio work 'The Chorus' at DISKURS '17, a festival at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies in Gießen; in 2016 we presented a paper on our project 'The Digital Writing Group' at the International Conference on Artistic Research at The Hague. Strongly identifying our work as research, we feel it imperative to engage with discourse and share our knowledge beyond the production and presentation of artworks. We have recently been awarded a residency at PACT, Zollverein in Essen, which will take place in summer 2019.

Independently, we are building networks and audiences internationally, through our internet radio project 'Radio Play'. On this platform, a three-hour evening programme taking place four times a year, we curate work from a wide range of artists who are geographically dispersed, but who share a collaborative attitude and interdisciplinary rigour. We strive to facilitate international conversations in this way and develop our own understanding of how artistic peers are challenging conventional practice.

**Has your company toured internationally before? \***

No

**Will the production you are proposing for Edinburgh Showcase 20i19 have already toured overseas before August 2019? \***

No

**How long will your production be available for international touring from September 2019? \***

24 Months

**Please provide detail of any workshops, talks or educational programmes that you can deliver to accompany your work/production.**

Ensure you complete this section of the form in as much detail as possible. The information you provide will be used to assess your skill/expertise in delivering a supporting programme of professional development work.

Workshops we have given in UK institutions, particularly focusing on our intersection of dance and speech.

- "I think it's moving by itself"

A professional practice workshops for dancers and physical movement practitioners.

First delivered at DanceXchange, Birmingham. April 2018.

Initially led through scores involving close muscular-skeletal attention, and sensations of ease, participants are invited to speak a series of short phrases (such as "I think it's moving by itself" and "Oh my god I'm freaking out") that infect the participants movement and relations. The workshop makes use of the cliched language, hysteria and vanity of valley girls in pop culture, to critically interrogate the normative aesthetics and performance modes that shape contemporary somatic practices, and give rise to a collective improvisation of glee and self-absorption.

- Open Platform

A workshop for thinking dance, and dancing while you think. This can be run as an open workshop, attended by those with little to no experience of dance and movement. It has also been particularly successful in facilitating conversation within existing groups who undertake movement or studio practice regularly.

First delivered at OpenLab, Chisenhale Dance Space, London. January 2017.

Framed by a question, 'Open Platform' invites the participants to share a conversation while moving through a loose series of physical prompts. Whilst recognizing the intertwined nature of conceptual and bodily exchange, the oblique nature of the ensuing conversation offers a space in which the norms of somatic and dance practice can be questioned. Refreshing and playful, this space allows participants to critique the social conventions of dance studios, an apparently relaxed or accepting environment which might be full of unspoken tensions and expectations. Participants have felt able to open up questions that might otherwise feel difficult, awkward, or rebellious, and to rehearse strategies for their future participation in these environments. Also see: <https://tatenlyle.com/portfolio/open-platform/> for documentation of discussions.

Audio installation / intervention:

- Radio Play: Live from...

Pop-up radio station. An online broadcast of work from contemporary artists working across sound, performance and the voice.

First developed at Summer Lodge 2017, Nottingham Trent University. Running throughout 2018-19 as an independent online broadcast.

'Radio Play' can be delivered live from an institution or art space, reacting and reporting on the space and our own research, to a local and international audience. Working with suggestions of work from local artists, and building on our growing network of international emerging artists, we curate a unique line-up of experimental audio. We make use of the intangibility of sound to showcase a diversity of discipline and geographical distance in order to forge new relationships and an exchange of audiences. Also see/hear: <https://tatenlyle.com/portfolio/radio-play/>

**Do you or any members of your company offer consultancy based on either your artistic area of expertise, your company or business model?**

If so, please detail your area of expertise and relevant experience to date.

### **Supporting Footage**

Please submit any other filmed footage that is representative of your work and you feel would support your application.

<https://vimeo.com/245609801>