

Check-in Festival | *This* | Timber & Battery

This (2018), a performance for exhibition spaces
Timber & Battery
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Description of the work: *"There's a moment where Paul is stood next to an upright table his hand hovering just above its surface. 'This' he says and he seems to mean the table or this bit of the table and then he moves slightly and says 'this' again and he is now referring to the whole complicated situation that he and Rohanne and us watching are in. And so with seemingly not much at all they take us on a kind of journey through perception and meaning, sort of like a trip. A really small one but a trip all the same."* - Hamish MacPherson, artist & researcher

Performed by Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes, *This* is a choreography for gallery, exhibition and foyer spaces.

Exploring the gestures of sensation, investigation and thought, the work presents two idiots introducing and exploring a pair of collapsible tables. A single conversation playing about between a man and a woman, this encounter duplicated and separated across two isolated tables – rendering this relationship between these two figures perpetually open in their search for shared understanding and meaning. Lost somewhere between the rigours of scientific exploration and a childish recklessness, they point, tap and gesture - gradually escalating towards the wild extremes of clattering, shaking and shouting.

Body and furniture contort around one another; the minimal script, restricted to the unstable demonstratives 'this' and 'that', shifts from detail to whole, gesture to pose, position to architecture; and eventually to the emergent and fleeting relations between performer and viewer. Exploring and exhausting the possibilities of body, object, gesture and space, *This* draws together the restless and rebellious bodies of slapstick with contemporary choreographic and sculptural thought, in order to interrogate the slippery gestures of identification, definition, demarcation and demonstration.

Why this opportunity will be of use to you

Awarded a DX Choreography Award by DanceXchange, Birmingham, *This* is scheduled for development in early Spring 2018; and Check-In Festival would be the perfect opportunity to publicly share the finished work straight from this period of rehearsals. Additionally, this development is receiving support from Dance4; and alongside scheduled performances in Manchester (Legroom), Birmingham (DanceXchange), Blackpool (ICW) and London (Rich Mix) (all May and June 2018), this festival would allow us to share this work within the East Midlands, including the audiences and peers we are developing across the region to this significant part of our practice: our first tour.

In particular, this first finished sharing of the work would be in a supportive context; having presented our work there in the past, we know the space and vibe Attenborough Arts Centre well (Tetrad Collective, 'Us & Them', May 2016); and we also appreciate the ongoing relationship we have with Derby Theatre, and in particular Check In Festival ('Departure Lounge', March 2017). After a successful work-in-progress sharing at *Work Processing* (Chisenhale Dance Space, December 2017), we believe this work to be exciting to diverse audiences; *This* fits both AAC and Check-In's commitment to both experimental practice sitting across traditional performance disciplines, that remains accessible and engaging to a wide range of audiences.

Duration of work: 30-40mins, finished piece

Performance space/tech: Gallery space. No lighting/AV/sound needed – just an open exhibition space. No set up time needed: performers carry on two collapsible tables.

Audience capacity: Up to 40, depending on size of performance space.

Artist bio: 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.

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); and 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).

Video links/Documentation: While this piece doesn't have any documentation yet, some previous and relevant works include:

- [Meaningless Dance 13 \(Empty Gestures\)](#), stage performance, 15mins.
- [It's Out of Our Hands](#), video, ~1mins 30sec.
- [Just One Thing On Top Of Another](#), installation, found objects.
- [Untitled Score for Two Performers](#), gallery performance, 20mins approx.

Full details of our work are available at our website [here](#).