

S▶MA

Projects



the body //
performance //
technology //
behaviour

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 @SOMA_Projects



Sonya Russell-Saunders

Sonya Russell-Saunders is a curator and researcher devising experimental and collaborative curatorial methods. She works with multi-disciplinary artists, performers and dancers to examine performative practices, including the roles of the curator, artist and audience. Her approach to exhibition making is dynamic, live experiences and situations are recorded and are relayed back into the site they were created, engaging with site and situation specificity, documentary as fine art, and the audiences experience of unexpected temporal and spatial situations.

Through sociological theory and her own observations of human behaviour she designs and stages situations to create a meta art work, the sum of all the artistic practices and the audience that activates it, situated in a space where sociological theory is embedded. These situations allow moments where an audiences experience and understanding shifts, heightening awareness of the site, the

moment and the art work encountered and a space for active reflection.

In August 2016 she launched **SOMA** Projects formalising her collaboration with choreographer and performer Martin Prosser. **SOMA** combines an interest in artistic practice that examines performativity and human behaviour through everyday technology. **SOMA** aims to be inclusive, share knowledge and create new aesthetic experiences.

SOMA will work with a series of Associates experts in order to produce innovative performative audience centred events. www.somaprojects.uk

Sonya has curated and produced over 18 exhibitions and performances showcasing multi-disciplinary artistic talent from across the UK. She holds MA Contemporary Curatorial Practice BA Hons (First Class) History of Art and Design. In April 2016 she was awarded Curatorial Professional Development Bursary from New Art West Midlands

Art Market, this has enabled her to begin in-depth practice and theoretical research and collaborate with highly innovative artists.

For full details of her past projects and research see:

www.sonyarussellsaunders.com

Contact:

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Martin Prosser

Martin Prosser is a London based Performance Maker, Performer and Writer.

He has studied a BA in Performing Arts at the University of Bedfordshire, then further continuing his studies at Brunel University with an MA in Contemporary Performance Making.

His choreographies and directed pieces have been performed around the UK, as well as co-directing and performing in a live online stream production between Ohio and London. He has also worked as an Intern for theatre company Look Left Look Right.

Martin makes up one half of SOMA Projects. Having worked with Sonya Russell-Saunders over two previous projects (Interaction Order and Collective Representation), he finds his interests are similar to Sonya's.

As part of his works he teaches embodied movement practices to get the participants to understand his process of work as well as having a better understanding of themselves.

His work revolves around the audience, looking at different ways of involving them into the performance. Exploring with repetition, intimacy and technology to create original pieces of work.

Website

www.martindavidprosser.wixsite.com/martin-prosser/home

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Ana Rutter

Ana Rutter is an artist and a PhD candidate at Birmingham City University School of Art.

Her research is concerned with affective experience created using re-mediated gathered material, she is interested in the everyday and specifically the aural everyday landscapes that we live within.

Her work in this project explores notions of documentary and collaboration, but with no critical distance, it takes as a starting point her own personal response to place, event and situation; to what is gathered and how it is then re-constructed into works without linear narrative.

She is exploring details and minute parts of activities and interactions. The fleeting moments of encounters which are often slightly out of focus and just out of reach.

Ana has worked with Sonya Russell-Saunders on two previous projects in 2014 and 2015 and is an associate of SOMA Projects.

She is currently developing a number of projects individually and in collaboration and has shown locally and nationally over the last few years.

For further information on research and projects please visit

www.anarutter.com

Contact

anagabrielle@btopenworld.com



Danai Pappa & Neal Spowage

Danai Pappa is a Greek born performer, choreographer and video dance maker based in London. She is a founding member of Agony Art and curates performance events in East London. Her work has been shown across the UK and Europe and includes dance, dance theatre and site specific performances. She has a background in humanities and has also studied dance and choreography at Middlesex University. She considers choreography to be a tool to explore the world, formulate questions, answer them and further stimulate her curiosity.

www.danaipappa.co.uk

Neal Spowage is British born artist who designs, builds and composes with Sculptural Electronic Musical Instruments and realises works for them using the disciplines of Dance, Video Art and Live Art. Neal's research interests include collaborative relationships, movement, interaction, sculpture, objects as totems, live performance, negotiating expertise between disciplines, perception, gender dynamics, video documentation as art, the body and choreography. He completed a doctorate that investigated these areas in 2016.

He is an experienced rock musician who has released a commercial CD album, SUGAR (2009), on Resurrection Records with the Screaming Banshee Aircrew and performed in the UK, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

www.nealspowage.com

He has supported The Chameleons Vox, The Damned and The March Violets. He is a significant on-going contributor to the Dirty Electronics Ensemble in Leicester, and has been involved with various Dirty Electronics events over the past eight years.

Danai and Neal have been collaborating since 2011 and have created three projects; each one a duet and each one designed to explore their personal relationship and create images from movement and sound. They investigate gender dynamics, interaction, sound as an artefact, ritual and totemic values combined with negotiations of expert/inexpert movement between disciplines, using junk noise sculptures as a creative conduit. Two of their collaborations, Cold Papaya and Frozen Venus, were shortlisted for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in 2015.



Rosella Galindo

Rosella Galindo is a dance artist, researcher, and digital media producer based in London. She is a member of the International Dance Council (CID/UNESCO) and the Cognitive Science Research Group at Queen Mary University of London, where she is a Media and Arts Technology PhD student.

Her aim is to merge arts, media and digital technology to create meaningful interactive systems and explore new artistic languages.

Rosella has collaborated with Split Britches in the Green Screening workshops to develop interactive digital scenography for stroke survivors. The project involves the research, design and creation of technological tools to support movement expressive therapies, looking at Kinect Motion Capture potential.

As a PhD student, she has presented her research in the second Virtual Social Interaction Workshop (University of Salford, Manchester) and Inter/Sections (QMUL, London).

She directed the video documentary 'Hacking the Body 2.0', focused on the homonymous project by Kate Sicchio and Camille Baker, which employs DIY wearable technology for dance performance; and created 'BLight', an interactive installation based on the challenge of tracking light with low technology.

During her graduate studies in Mexico (MA in Art, Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes), she was invited to London as a visiting researcher, a performer and tech assistant to the cross-media Lab Design and Performance Lab (DAP-Lab) directed by Johannes Birringer and Michèle Danjoux, exploring motion-tracking systems, interactive interfaces, and fashion design/sound.

As a choreographer, she has experimented with contemporary and street dance languages. As a dancer, she has worked with DAP-Lab (dance and technology), Ensemble 21 (jazz dance), Beyond the Groove Company (street dance) and ColectivoVortex (contemporary dance), performing around Mexico, Las Vegas (USA) and London (UK). She was member of Mexico's representative team (Beyond the Groove) in the Hip Hop World Championship during 2013. She has co-directed dance performance, managed dance groups and the executive production of diverse live showcases and theatre performances, such as Dance to the Beat (2007, 2008 y 2009), Aura Creativa (2012), Vorágine (2013), and Belly Gym dance academy artistic programs and events.

Her academic research focuses on contemporary dance aesthetics, performance and technology, communication into interactive multimedia systems, reformulation of artistic languages through digital media, performer's aesthetic experience and

Aguascalientes' dance historical record as well as cultural policies.

She has been awarded grants to conduct the research 'Dance and Interactivity: reflections on the aesthetic experience of the performer in Dance with Digital Media through the technique of Motion Tracking' (CONACYT, 2012-2014) and 'The Shadow of Dance: the historical development of Dance at the Cultural Institute of Aguascalientes' (ICA, 2012); as well as a grant to create the artistic project 'Dance to the Beat III: breaking borders' (ICA, 2010).

Galindo freelanced for over eight years as a filmmaker/media producer for social and performing arts. As well as working as a multimedia producer for the Aguascalientes' Arts and Culture Institute and CRENA (Mexico).

www.RosellaGalindo.com



Jessica Campbell

Jessica Campbell is a freelance dance artist interested in physical theatre performance. Based in Birmingham and London, she graduated from Roehampton University in 2014 with First Class Honours Degree.

Her dance accomplishments include, contemporary, release, Cunningham, Graham, Limon, Contact, Physical Theatre, Ballet, Commercial and Street. She is also a skilled synchronised swimmer and gymnast.

She has worked with a number of professional choreographers including Balbir Singh and Anna Watkins, and is mentored by Patsy Brown-Hope.

She has undertaken residencies with Motionhouse, Ballet Boyz, Dark Island Dance, Third Row Dance Company and DanceXchange. She has performed across the UK including the Paralympics Opening Ceremony, Olympic Stadium, London in 2012.

Image credit: Jessica Campbell , 2016.

She has worked with Sonya Russell-Saunders, under the direction of Martin Prosser in Collective Representation: The Smile and Chat policy, devising and performing repetitive pedestrian gestures and embodied movement within a gallery context and conceptual framework.

Contact

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SOMA Creative Projects

Creative Directors

Sonya Russell-Saunders
Martin Prosser

SOMA Associates

Ana Rutter
Dr Neal Spowage and Danai Pappa
Jess Campbell
Rosella Galindo
April Brunt

Future Associates

Tim Hodgson
Ben Baker
Anais Lalange
Alicia Kidman

Ana Rutter



Image: Still/Image, Ana Rutter, 2014.

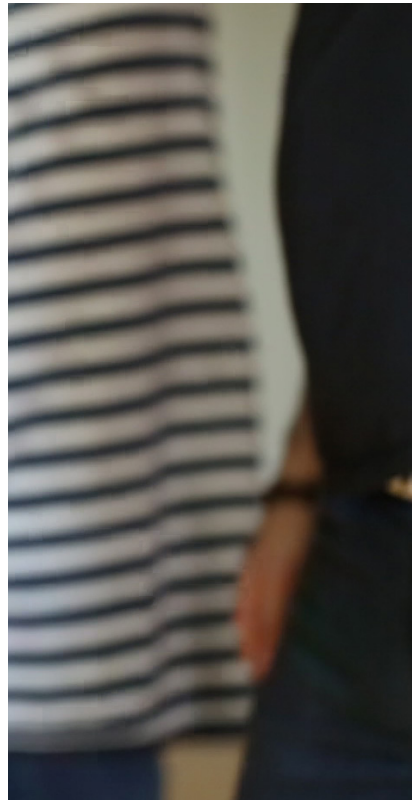


Image: Moving/Past, Ana Rutter, 2014.



Image credit: Looking/Watching, Ana Rutter, 2014.

Martin Prosser



Image credit: Interaction Order , 2014, photograph by Tim J Pratt.



Image credit: SOMA rehearsal, photograph Sonya Russell-Saunders, 2016.

Danai Pappa & Neal Spowage



Image credit: Neal Spowage & Danai Pappa, 2016, credit Neal Spowage.

Rosella Galindo



Image credit: Rosella Galindo, 2016.

Jessica Cambell



Image credit: Jessica Cambell, 2014

Sonya Russell-Saunders



Image credit: Interaction Order, 2013, film Tim J Pratt, performer Anais Lalange, photograph by Sonya Russell-Saunders.

Thanks

Huge thanks to Deborah Kermode, Claire Marshall and Jessica Litherland at mac for their invaluable support, Rachel Bradley and Craig Ashley at New Art West Midlands for this fantastic opportunity, Prof. Johannes Birringer and performers at International Metabody Conference, Brunel University who were inspiring and welcoming, Dr Philip Shelton for his time and knowledge on sociological theory, Ikon Gallery for supporting New Art West Midlands, and my collaborators Martin Prosser, Ana Rutter, Neal Spowage, Rosella Galindo, Danai Pappa, Jess Campbell and April Brunt.



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Art West
Midlands
2016**