YORKSHIRE DANCE

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RESIDENCY REVIEW

Rachel Dean

Monday 8 - Friday 12 February, 2010

Knowing that you have a warm, dry, private, expanse of dance floor to move on for a week is the right framework for the work to begin.

A fine artist might need canvas and paints and a brush; this is what a dance artist needs.

My creative process:

I worked sometimes alone and sometimes with:

Daliah Toure and Vanessa Grasse – dance artists
Harrison Richards – Mystery Entertainer
Naomi Rothwell – Physical theatre
Chemaine Cooke- Performance artist/dancer

My questions:

Traces – what is left behind when a movement is over? Can you tell what I just did from the traces left behind?

What traces are left:

- In the space – dust, air, warmth, moisture, marks on the floor, resonating sound
- In my body-breath, heart rate, muscle tension, clothes and hair
- In the minds of people watching – emotion, memories, state of mind.

Some things I did:

- Played a guessing game where one person had to guess what movement the other had just executed.
- Had my palm read and talked to a mystery entertainer about reading traces in the body, relationship with audience, his skill at influencing people.
- Used Goldsworthy's Rain Shadows as the stimulus for creating movement. One person outlined the shape of the other who then moved away.
- Improvised, then went back to see what traces I remembered and made a phrase from this.
- Asked other people to repeat any traces they remembered after watching it
- Used Forsythe Improvisation Techniques to create a phrase exploring leaving an imprint in space.
- Created a phrase from bits of movement I remember watching on stage.
- Put these elements together into a lecture demonstration and asked for feedback using the Liz Lerman method.

Working with Yorkshire Dance:

The residency has helped me to reconnect my choreographic practise with physical somatic investigation. Having space to explore without the internal or external pressure to start creating a piece was really useful and allowed me to explore more freely.

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