



DATA BODIES

Digital Performance Weekender 2015 Sat 14 & Sun 15 November

For two days, leading New Media artists from all over the world, from South Africa to Brighton to Belgium are gathering in Watermans' riverside art centre to deliver an explosive programme of digital performances, dance, workshops, installations, and interactive events. The New Media Arts programme at Watermans is one of the most experimental and far-reaching in the field. On 14th and 15th November 2015 the West London venue is hosting its third annual Digital Performance Weekender, and this year's theme is Data Bodies - privacy in a big data world.

Saturday night's spectacular dance/music double bill includes Alexander Whitley's visually striking and kinetically charged choreography in *The Measures Taken*, a solo adaptation of the work commissioned by the Royal Ballet, created in collaboration with digital media artists Marshmallow Laser Feast. Newcomers to the New Media Arts scene will enjoy Bio-artist Anna Dumitriu's latest work *Sequence* and put on Virtual Reality headsets for a journey of discovery into the world of bacteria. They will also enjoy Crew's *C.A.P.E.* (Computer Automatic Personal Environment) where visitors are equipped with "omni-directional equipment" for an immersive adventure. New Media Arts professionals will find the Symposium un-missable, bringing together a truly expert panel to discuss issues around data privacy. The Production Methods discussion will explore in depth their major exhibition *Executive Chair*. And children get a chance to hack their electronic toys in the *Circuit Bending Orchestra Workshop*, on Sunday. Most events are completely free of charge.

FULL PROGRAMME

SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE DOUBLE BILL
ALEXANDER WHITLEY DANCE COMPANY & CIRCUIT BENDING ORCHESTRA
Saturday 14 November, 19.30
Theatre and bar. Tickets: £12.50

MEASURES TAKEN - Solo Adaptation
Alexander Whitley Dance Company
"Scene-by-scene it's extraordinary" *The Guardian*

The original full-length version of *Measures Taken* was commissioned by The Royal Ballet and performed at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden to huge critical acclaim. This 20-minute solo adaptation has been created in collaboration with digital media artists Marshmallow Laser Feast and uses motion-tracking technology to project visuals that interact with the performers' movements in real-time.

The performance asks how it is that the gaze of technology has the potential to change the way we see ourselves.

www.alexanderwhitley.com

<https://vimeo.com/95194106>

CIRCUIT BENDING ORCHESTRA & HACKOUSTIC PERFORMANCES

Curated by Tasos Stamou

Sound artist Tasos Stamou presents two exploratory music orchestras incorporating hacked, DIY and handmade instruments. Circuit Bending Orchestra and Hackoustic Orchestra will perform a series of open compositions and conducted improvisations, placed outside the usual stage arrangement. Performers will surround the audience, creating a diffused-sound electro-acoustic environment.

The project had previously been shown at 'Hack the Barbican' DIY arts project in 2013 at the Barbican. Hackoustic's latest presentations include a performance at the Turbine Festival at Tate Modern and Cafe OTO. www.tasosstamou.info

stamouinstruments.blogspot.com

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

PRODUCTIONS METHODS: EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Friday 6 November 2015 - Sunday 10 January 2016

Open: 11.00-22.00

The Gallery - FREE

Giant sized office document boxes transform the gallery space at Watermans into a virtual place of business, site of production and corporate entity in this Executive Chair installation that offers a radically new perspective of our working environments and practices. A series of participatory workshops accompanies the exhibition. Anyone interested in joining in should email irini@watermans.org.uk

Executive Chair comprises artists Haydn Jones, Fabio Lattanzi Antinori, Jonathan Munro working with curator Ozden Sahin. Their last exhibition was held at the Shonibare Studio London.

PRODUCTION METHODS: EXHIBITION LAUNCH EVENT AND DISCUSSIONS

Executive Chair

Saturday 14 November, 18.30-21.00

Gallery - FREE

Join Executive Chair's exhibition launch event to hear about their work over drinks. Executive Chair will be discussing their practices and the issues raised by the Production Methods exhibition and participation programme.

executivechair.co

SEQUENCE

Anna Dumitriu in collaboration with Alex May and the Modernising Medical Microbiology Project

3 - 16 November

11.00-22.00

Riverside Gallery - FREE

Anna Dumitriu is one of the best know bio-artists, working closely with leading scientists to produce art and performance. Her work is permanently installed at The Eden Project and has recently been show at the Digital Design Weekend at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Her new artwork Sequence fuses leading digital technology with bacterial bio-art, traditional media and altered historical artefacts to investigate the emerging technology of whole genome sequencing of bacteria. The installation makes us consider the impact of genome sequencing - personally, culturally and socially.

Artist-programmer Alex May takes as his starting point the 2.8 million base pairs of the sequenced DNA of Staphylococcus aureus bacteria (a cousin of the MRSA 'superbug') taken from his own body. He investigates how the technology to read this DNA operates in both a practical and cultural context. The work is set against



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a backdrop of public concerns around privacy, the commercialisation of data, the threat of new pandemics and the lack of new antibiotic treatments.

The project was created in collaboration with microbiologists, bio-informaticians, computer scientists and ethicists from Public Health England, The University of Oxford, The University of Hertfordshire, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, making it a truly cross discipline event.

sequenceart.tumblr.com www.normalflora.co.uk

SEQUENCE: VIRTUAL REALITY DEMONSTRATION

Anna Dumitriu & Alex May

Saturday 14 November, 16.00-18.00

Riverside Gallery - FREE

To understand the technologies behind whole genome sequencing of bacteria, Anna Dumitriu and Alex May have created this virtual reality experience of genome data, offered to visitors wearing Oculus Rift VR headsets.

Fak'ugesi Lab Exhibition: a culmination of explorations and public engagements.

FAK'UGESI LAB RESIDENCY

3 - 15 November 11.00-19.00

Studio 2 and Gallery - FREE

The Fak'ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival in partnership with Watermans have developed an exciting residency that runs for three weeks in Johannesburg in August/September and continues in London as part of the Digital Performance Weekender.

Digital Artists Jepchumba, Kasia Molga, Ling Tan and Nathan Gates, based at the Wits Art Museum, have created Futurist Visions of Johannesburg to explore cultural technologies with residents of the city. At Watermans they will engage audiences in discussions and hands on activities around their practices.

This project has been supported by the SA-UK Seasons 2014 and 2015, a partnership between the Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa and the British Council.

<http://fakugesi.co.za>

DATA BODIES SYMPOSIUM

You Are My Data

Saturday 14 November, 11.00–16.00

STUDIO 1 - FREE

Although digital social networks are now at the heart of our lives - circulating knowledge and fostering innovation - they are also closely monitored, leading to hyper-centralised forms of surveillance. This symposium led by a the leading voices in new media, studies how people contribute to 'a permanent capture of life into data' through daily routines of surfing, shopping, and life-logging. Artists, academics, technologists and users will debate issues of privacy in relation to big data capture, to raise awareness of the scale and applications of these practices, to propose ways of responding to the loss of privacy and to consider avenues for resistance to the risks of self-quantification.

A part of the Being Human festival of the humanities, in collaboration with London South Bank University.

Chaired by Dr Maria Chatzichristodoulou aka Maria X, London South Bank University and Prof. Phil Hammond, London South Bank University Speakers: Anna Dumitriu, Sarah T Gold, Dr Maria Sourbati, University of Brighton, Daphne Dragona, curator Dr Perry Keller, Reader in Media and Information Law,

Associate Dean (Education), Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College, Prof. James Connelly, University of Hull, Marc Garrett, Furtherfield

CAPE Walking with Crew

PERFORMANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

C.A.P.E. WALKING WITH CREW

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November

Saturday 12:00-19:00

Sunday 13.00-18.00

Box Office Foyer - FREE

C.A.P.E. (Computer Automatic Personal Environment) offers an incomparable 20-minute immersive adventure. The visitor is equipped with "omni-directional equipment" - trackers, a headset, laptop and video glasses that causes them to re-experience their visual and haptic senses. Premiered at the Shanghai World Exhibition in 2010, this format offers a radically new way for audience members to engage with a narrative.

This work by the Brussels-based performance group CREW, initiated by artist Eric Joris, allows participants to explore self-representation in systems that move between installation art, theatre and performance.

www.crewonline.org

Stitch Bitch and Make/Perform

STITCH BITCH and MAKE/PERFORM

Camille Baker and Melissa Coleman

Sunday 15 November, 14.00-16.00

Studio 1 - FREE

Fashion and other designers, artists, performers, technologists, bio-technologists and wearable DIY enthusiasts meet in Stitch Bitch, Make/ Perform to show, share, plan, educate, and learn from each other. They research and create soft circuits, e-textiles, digital fashion, wearables and DIY electronics, which are then used in visual art and performance.

The group started at Watermans Digital Performance Weekender last year, and now has over 50 members. The event this year joins discussion of topical issues around technologies with hands-on workshops and a demonstration of participant's current work.

Sarah Gold's Data Bodies Workshop

WORKSHOPS

DATA BODIES: YOU ARE MY DATA PRIVACY WORKSHOP

Sarah Gold

Sunday 15 November, 11.00-13.00

Studio 2 - FREE

Participants to this workshop are invited to reflect on issues surrounding privacy in the face of Big Data. Specifically, it will study data capture practices in software applications such as Foursquare, Fitbit, and Moodpanda. The workshop will propose ways of responding to loss of privacy.

Led by Sarah T Gold, www.sarahtgold.co.uk

Part of the Being Human festival of the humanities, in collaboration with London South Bank University.

DATA BODIES: YOU ARE MY DATA YOUTH WORKSHOP



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Sunday 15 November, 14.00-16.00

Studio 2 - FREE

Data Privacy issues are especially important for young people who are vulnerable to data 'leakage'. This workshop makes transparent the data gathering, mining, and exploitation that surrounds and targets us. Topics range from data capture practices of apps like Foursquare and Fitbit to privacy-enhancing strategies and technologies.

Led by Emilie Giles and Alan Waldo. Part of the Being Human festival of the humanities, in collaboration with London South Bank University.

Circuit Bending's Children's Workshop - hacking electronic toys

FAMILY EVENTS

CHILDREN'S THEATRE LITTLE HOWARD AND THE MAGIC PENCIL

Makin Projects

Sunday 15 November, 15.00-16.00

Theatre- Tickets £7.00

Little Howard has discovered the pencil that drew him. But, on the other end of this magical pencil of life is the eraser of death, and a dark force is at large determined to rub the cheeky chap out for good. And, as if that wasn't enough, Big Howard has had a real-life baby who is getting a little too much attention! Can Little Howard escape his supernatural nemesis? How will he get rid of this pesky new arrival? Who knows ... but there will be danger, drama and a lot of laughs on the way.

With interactive stand-up, 3D animation and lots of songs this really is a show that all the family can enjoy.

'Genius' The Radio Times

'I defy you not to be helplessly charmed' The Telegraph

'Incredibly, aching funny' Daily Mail

For ages 5+ years

Running time: 60 minutes

CIRCUIT BENDING WORKSHOP AND PRESENTATION FOR CHILDREN

Tasos Stamou

Sunday 15 November, 14.00-15.00 & 16.00-17.00

Bar - FREE

Sound artist and music technologist Tasos Stamou teaches children to recycle musical toys. In simple and amusing ways, children will turn 'hackable' electronic sound toys into unique sonic devices and experimental music instruments. This is a practical, hands-on workshop, including the most common and effective circuit bending modifications. Participants are welcome to bring their own electronic toys for bending but hackable toys will also be provided from a large selection. Please contact the artists with any questions regarding the "hackability" of your own devices.

www.tasosstamou.info stamouinstruments.blogspot.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4YhnAv8gAY

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9z0QrWIXAKk

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Data Bodies Digital Performance Weekender 2015

Saturday 14th & Sun 15th November Watermans 40 High Street Brentford TW8 0DS Box Office: 0208 232 1010

Web: www.watermans.org.uk

Facebook: [/watermansarts](https://www.facebook.com/watermansarts) #digitalweekender

Twitter: @NMArtsLondon

Transport: Bus: 65, 237, 267 stop outside



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Train: Overground from Waterloo to Kew Bridge and a 7-minute walk. Car: Covered car park (free for one hour, £1 per hour to max. £5 after that). Fully accessible.
Performance Double Bill £12.00. Little Howard and the Magic Pencil £7. All other events Free. Link to Digital Performance Weekender Tickets:
http://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873541456/events?show_id=873541456

Press Events

Journalists are welcome to have press tickets to all weekend events including the Saturday Night double bill and the family events. Previews are available during get-in on Thursday and Friday 12/13 November where press are welcome to meet artists and try out the demonstrations and see rehearsals. Please contact Jessica Wood to arrange - Mobile 07939 226988 or 01273 488996 watermans@artsinform.co.uk



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