

Contextual Statement

The subject of this work is an interdisciplinary dance and video solo performance, involving additional audience audio-immersion, concerned with an exploration of close-mindedness; employing the definition of this trait as detailed by David Foster Wallace (2009). Framed theoretically by Tero Saarinen's 2002 work 'Hunt' on hypostatisation and Shen Wei's 2008 work 'Connect Transfer' on (re)contextualisation of dance as visual art (Gerdes, E.V.P. (2010)), this practice-as-research performance engages with two broad research challenges: firstly, the exposition - and reification through performance - of the quite specific human characteristic of close-mindedness; and, secondly, the difficulty of making a solo performance that, for the purposes of conveying to the audience the pervasiveness of close-mindedness in an increasingly troubled and divided world, is non-autobiographical in content and form.

Methodologically drawing from Meyer (1978) and Behrends et al (2012), and inspired by classical Greek Mythology - notably the manner in which individual deities are classified as representing particular human concerns/emotions - the uniqueness of the work lies in that it, symbolically and physically, utilises the iconography of Greek Mythology and inverts the characteristics, and name, of Tiresias, a prophet of Apollo who, whilst physically blind, had the gift of clairvoyance and the ability to perceive reality in its entirety. Such qualities existing as the opposite of close-mindedness.

A further originality to the work lies in that, in addition to the performance representing and exploring - through synergistic use of movement, prop(s), projected images, and sound - close-mindedness, it does not consist of a linear narrative. Instead, occupying an immersive performance territory and through the fabric of the dance performance, video projection, and (optional) sound (for the purposes of which headphones are provided to the audience), a non-prescriptive field of enquiry is presented to the, thus autonomous and intellectually empowered, audience.

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