Hacking the Body 2.0 Performance: *Flutter/Stutter*

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Abstract. Flutter/Stutter is an improvisational dance piece, part of the Hacking the Body 2.0 project, that uses networked soft circuit sensors to trigger sound and haptic actuators in the form of a small motor that tickles the performers. Dancers embody the flutter of the motor and respond with their own movement that reflects this feeling. This research explores using the concept of hacking data to repurpose and re-imagine biofeedback from the body. It investigates understandings of states of the body and hacking them to make new artworks such as performance and costumes. Through performance we aim to communicate to the public new ways to engage with their bodies and technology with intimacy and sensation embedded in wearables.

Keywords: Wearable tech and e-textiles, Performance, Sustainable garments, Ethical data collection.

Description of Work

Flutter/Stutter is an improvisational dance piece that uses networked soft circuit sensors to trigger sound and haptic actuators in the form of a small motor that tickles the performers. Dancers embody the flutter of the motor and respond with their own movement that reflects this feeling. The sensors and actuators, along with the garments they are embedded within, are bespoke designs by Becky Stewart and Tara Baoth Mooney that interact, influence and interrupt the dance and hack the body.

This research explores using the concept of hacking data to repurpose and re-imagine biofeedback from the body. It investigates understandings of states of the body and hacking them to make new artworks such as performance and costumes. Through performance we aim to communicate to the public new ways to engage with their bodies and technology with intimacy and sensation embedded in wearables.

Duration: approximately 20 minutes

Figure 1. Images from performance of the piece in February 2016 in London, UK

Links to Further Documentation

Project's site with links to social media accounts: http://www.hackingthebody.co.uk

Blog documenting the project: https://hackingthebody.wordpress.com

Film of the April 2015 residency of the project: https://vimeo.com/133353621

Film of the November testing, leading to the February Performances https://vimeo.com/162185498

Documentary of the project and performances https://vimeo.com/168129310

Biographies

Kate Sicchio

Kate Sicchio works at the interface of technology and choreography. Her work includes performances, installations, web and video projects. She has presented work internationally across the US, Canada, Germany, Australia, Belgium and the UK at venues such as the V&A (London), EU Parliament (Brussels), Banff New Media Institute (Banff) and Arnolfini Art Centre (Bristol UK). She currently is Adjunct Faculty at Parsons The New School for Design and New York University. See www.sicchio.com

Camille Baker

Camille Baker is a media artist/curator/lecturer in digital media with recent work in participatory mobile and sensor performance using wearable technologies, now exploring creative coding and electronic development for smart-fashion projects. Baker has a fascination with all things embodied, felt, sensed, the visceral, physical, relational, and participatory, using video, mobile and biofeedback devices. She is passionate about working with new technologies, expressive methods, in art and performance, seeking new methods to connect people over distance, in better and more embodied, emotional ways. She explores new mechanisms to elicit engaging experiences using evolving approaches to participatory performance. See her portfolio site www.swampgirl67.net and camillebaker.me

Rebecca Stewart

Rebecca Stewart is a Lecturer in the Centre for Digital Music within the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London. She is an engineer, developer, and educator working with real-time,

interactive systems for wearable computing. She builds physical computing interfaces and specialises in e-textiles. Stewart completed her PhD in acoustics, spatial audio and interfaces for music search with the Centre for Digital Music in 2010, an MSc in music technology at the University of York in 2006 and a BMus in music engineering technology and computer science at the University of Miami in 2005. http://antialiaslabs.com

Tara Baoth Mooney

Tara Baoth Mooney is a PHD candidate at the University of Wolverhampton where she is exploring textiles and fashion as triggers for memory and narrative for people living with dementia.

Tara has trained and worked as a designer in the textile industry in New York, The UK, India, China and Ireland where she is an associate research fellow at SMARTlab based in UCD Ireland. She also works as a consultant for UNIDO on the Better Work in Textiles Project which enables knowledge transfer and sharing of specialist activities between London College of Fashion's 'Centre for Sustainable Fashion' and the Bangladesh University of Fashion and Textiles. Her work explores garments as a form of outer cladding and what that can mean for our lived daily meanderings. External cladding or garments, can act as an interface between individuals and their immediate environment. Tara poses questions around the value of garments in a world, which increasingly devalues objects. How can our collaboration with our clothing, subjective experience and environment be developed to create more meaningful experiences with our environment. https://tarabaoth.wordpress.com

Additional Credits

Performers: Tara Baker and Phoebe Brown

Sound design: Rick Loynes

References

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