


The Other
Way Works

YOU'RE IN IT

Happy New Year and welcome to our Newsletter, brand spanking new for 2006!

The Other Way Works love to spark a debate, and this new annual newsletter doesn't disappoint, providing you with loads of opportunities to give us your opinions.

Just look out for this symbol  for your cue.



Transforming...

Never ones to take the easy route, 2005 has seen us create performances for some pretty unconventional spaces. The summer months were spent crouched in a two-person tent, surprising passers-by at festivals with our insect-themed sound and light show, *Mayfly*. In the autumn we took over gallery spaces in the West Midlands, transforming them into an interactive performance installation, *Homing Instinct*.

We start 2006 with a bang, continuing to shatter the conventional with our new performance *I am waiting for the opportunity to save someone's life*. This time it's a shop unit in Birmingham City Centre's The Mailbox getting The Other Way Works treatment.

A large team of artists will be joining the Company for the project including: performers, a musician, a film maker, a lighting designer,

a scenographer* and a dramaturg**. Influenced by ideas suggested by the space and the theme of waiting, *I am waiting for the opportunity to save someone's life* will be a walk-through performance that you can dip in and out of as the mood takes you.

During the development there will be three chances to see the work in progress. Showings will take place once a week from the 20th February, leading up to the final performances. We always find your feedback and suggestions invaluable, so drop by and let us know what you think.

Dates and times will be emailed to you and also posted on our website.

This time we're taking your involvement a step further and have created a special project website www.iamwaiting.co.uk featuring a Forum.



Log on now to www.iamwaiting.co.uk and tell us what you're waiting for.

Come and explore...

Preview performance 17th March 2006
Performances 18-19 and 22-26 March 2006

* [scenographer] a theatrical designer who designs all the visual elements of a performance

** [dramaturg] a theatre practitioner who supports the creation of a performance, through question, enquiry, information, research, and affirmation.



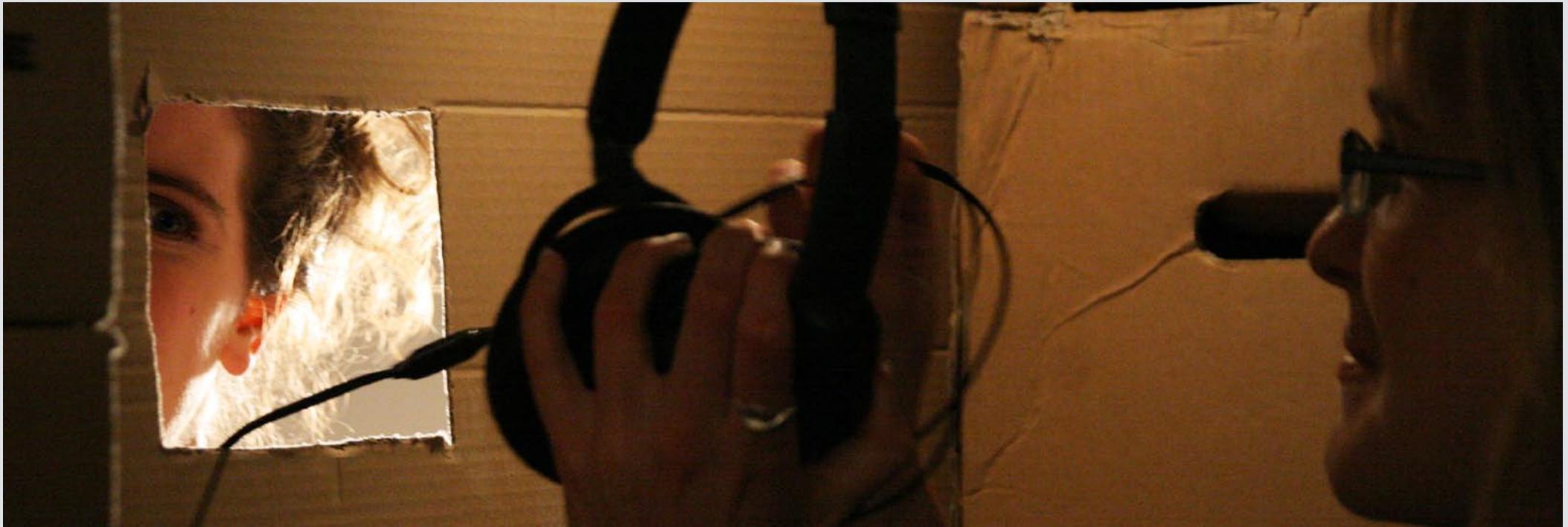
New website

For those who haven't seen it yet, we have a stylish new website. A grant from Arts Council England West Midlands has given us the chance to completely overhaul the website design and contents.

www.theotherwayworks.co.uk



We'd like to know what you think. Click here to fill in our quick online form.



Homing Instinct

Homing Instinct performer Katherine Maxwell-Cook gives an insider account of life in a box

The Box Blues

A week on from our last performance of Homing Instinct I sent my co-performer Holly a text, 'Are you missing your box?' I asked. 'Yeah', she replied. 'I've got post box blues.' Me too, I thought. Homesick for a box? A strange thought considering we'd created a show which had grown out of our own stories of longing for home. And now I'm not in my box – my 'home' for the duration of Homing Instinct. I kind of miss it. Those safe cardboard walls. That sticky brown tape. That wobbly roof.

Sitting in the silence, each one of us in our own tailor made box, we would peep out from behind the cardboard – keep our eye on the audience member moving round the space. It's interesting to think how this reversed the role of the

audience – we watched them, listened, laughed with them. But always in a gentle, encouraging way – fascinated to see how they would respond to everything they encountered on their journey.

We didn't move until they arrived at our box. We waited. Me munching on yet another humbug.

At times it was a little bit lonely sitting in your box – no-one to give a sneaky smile to or a wink across the stage. No two people who came to Homing Instinct will have had the same experience. It lived just for those moments and the audience member took what they wanted from it. It has now become our secret.

Audience responses to the tour

Absolutely gorgeous! So poignant, really lovely.

Really interesting piece; I think we will all go home talking and reflecting on it; it goes beyond just the experience itself; which is what good art does really; it makes you ask questions; it's great! I'll go home with a smile on my face and the cogs whirring!

You're in it, you feel like you're part of it. I just really loved it. It gave me a bit of a shiver down my spine actually, 'cos it really meant a lot to me; didn't know it would! I had quite an open mind, but it was really different from anything I've ever seen and I really enjoyed it.

I'd love everybody I know to go through there and have a discussion at the end, cos we'd have all have gone through the same thing but had a completely different experience.

Very thought-provoking, very different, very imaginative. I really enjoyed the experience, and it is an experience, as opposed to just a passive performance.

Made me miss my home!

Our thanks to...

Katherine Maxwell-Cook, Holly Denoon, Louise Platt, Gareth Nicholls, Marlene McKenzie, Ed Porteous, Phillip Holyman, Chris Keenan, Stuart Mills, and everyone at mac, Rugby Museum and Art Gallery, CAW and Light House for helping to make the tour a success.



Education

The Other Way Works tailor-make participatory projects and workshops for a range of different groups and settings. Here is an example to show what we could offer you or your organisation.

CASE STUDY – TAKE CONTROL

WHAT

A week of half-day workshops provided free of charge to the participants.

WHEN

June 2005.

WHERE

Selly Oak, Birmingham.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Box Project, Selly Oak.

PARTICIPANTS

A small group of 13-17 year olds at risk of exclusion.

AIMS

To stimulate imaginations and awaken senses.
To develop the skills to take responsibility for themselves and others.

ACTIVITIES

Games using blindfolds, to heighten awareness and build trust.

Working in pairs and small groups to improve communication skills.

Creating a multi-sensory imaginary landscape, and guiding blindfolded workshop leaders and fellow participants through it, to provide a sense of achievement and develop leadership skills.

RESPONSE

“When’s the next one?” participant.

FUNDED BY

Birmingham City Council and Trust Greenbelt.



Mayfly

In the summer Mayfly flew to the Big Chill and Bestival music and arts festivals and surprised hundreds as our two-person dome tent sprung to life with the sound of hundreds of wings and shadows of tangled antennae.

Described by onlookers both as 'beautiful' and 'a mini horror story', cocooned inside our mini dome we heard snatches of peoples reactions to the spectacle. Always entertained by their discovery, a lot of people seemed perplexed

by how it worked. One man brought his wife to speak to us at the end of the performance, as that was the only way to convince her that there were actually people inside, not robots!

There are many interpretations, some say it's extra terrestrial, some a mini festival, but all seem to agree it is a surreal and captivating sight that attracts humans and insects alike.

Mayfly is available to book for both festivals and private events throughout Summer 2006.
email info@theotherwayworks.co.uk

Contact Us

The Other Way Works undertake commissions for performances and participatory projects from venues, festivals, funders, and arts organisations.

Please contact Artistic Directors Jane Packman and Katie Day to discuss your ideas or requirements.

69 Milner Road Selly Park Birmingham B29 7RL

info@theotherwayworks.co.uk
www.theotherwayworks.co.uk

Newsletter design by www.thelifcraiveservices.com

Funded by



The Artbox
The Mailbox Arts and Event Programme 2006

