

MARK C. HEWITT

CV

D.o.B: 26 October, 1957

Contact: c/o

Blank Productions

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Writer / performer

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RECENT & ONGOING WORK AS ARTS PRACTITIONER

May – July 2006: *Embrace* – a series of experimental writings for Usanu Theatre Company after Italian writer Frana Rame's provocative political monologues leading to a one woman show performed by Norwegian actress Karen Odemark at the Pauper's Pit, Buxton Festival and Third Floor Arts Centre, Portsmouth during July 2007, devised and directed by Tamara Allen-Cousins.

April – July 2006: *Bodies / Raw Material / Body Language / Life Studies* – Work (and title) in progress. Arts Council funded research & development project working with Matthew Scott of 1157 performance group to create a multi-media live literature show (performed by myself) based around a collection of life study writings, effectively word-sketches of the human figure – nudes in words. Pre-production R&D process leading to three try-out performances in June / July 2006. Intended for national touring if R&D successful.

May 2006: *Stirrings Still*. Samuel Beckett's last prose work, *Stirrings Still*, a strange, convoluted fairy tale in three parts, performed in the style of an intimate storytelling. First performed at a City Running early evening informal event at Phoenix Gallery, Brighton. (*City Running, see below.*) Now part of current MCH performance repertoire.

May 2006: *City Running*. One of over 40 artists contributing to *City Running*. Devised and curated by Greg Daville for the Brighton Festival, the project involved practitioners working in a range of disciplines who, on different Saturdays over a five week period, set out from the Phoenix Gallery, Brighton at 11.00pm to absorb, record, collect, collate and reflect upon the city at night-time, returning at 2.30am to exhibit or perform work created that night, the results contributing to a cumulative exhibition.

April 2006: ***Farmed Out*** – first performances of play for one actor and projected film sequences set in a field. Exploring the decline of UK farming in contemporary context and the poetry of industrial/rural landscapes. Also performed the character of Old Spiller in the film sequences. Commissioned by Farnham Maltings and staged and directed by Jo Dagless and Matthew Scott of 1157performancegroup for Upstix/Pride of Place Theatre Festival 2006, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

March / April 2006: ***Funny Couple***. Five minute radio piece as part of a new writing series commissioned by BBC Southern Counties. Broadcast date tbc during 2006.

September 2005: ***The Temptation of St Antony*** – rehearsed reading of short play for one or two performers. Nightingale Theatre, Brighton.

August 2005: ***Stage Fright***. Contributed to project conducted by researchers at Aberystwyth University into managing ‘performance anxiety’. Half the group of 20 participants undertaking an intensive week of NLP, the others engaging with South Asian martial arts and Indian dance based techniques.

March 2005: ***Blank Productions***. New production company founded to explore cross artform collaboration and develop new writing projects for theatre.

2002: ***Songs of Tenderness & Violence – a cycle for soprano and nine solo instruments***. Short, edgy texts evoking contemporary scenes of dysfunction, perversity and violence written to accompany new music by Peter Copley.

2001/2002: ***Theatre Research and Development Project*** – for new movement-based visual theatre piece involving two large red leather wingbacked armchairs and exploring the visual possibilities with visual artist Lindsey McGown, photographer Magali Nougarede, life models, actors, a lighting technician and a furniture reupholsterer. Project still in development.

May / August 2001: ***Catastrophe*** – performances as an actor in three of a sequence of four Samuel Beckett dramaticules (Rockaby / Ohio Impromptu / A Piece of Monologue / Catastrophe) for 10 day run at Komedia, Brighton, and three weeks at Edinburgh Fringe. With actors George Dillon and Denise Evans. Directed by David Lavender for Komedia Productions.

July 2000 – May 2001: ***Hypnotrash*** - Year of the Artist residency exploring use of hypnosis / hypnotherapy as a creative tool and culminating in temporary publication as an internet journal – www.hypnotrash.com.

June – October 1999: ***What Keeps Mankind Alive?*** Celebration of the poetry of Bertolt Brecht and his contribution with Kurt Weill to Berlin Cabaret. With Guyanese poet John Agard and musicians Pam Hewitt (voice) and Anna Tabor (piano).

April 1998: ***The Entertainers – an omnibus of contemporary writing and art***. Editor and contributor. Anthology of work and curiosities by writers, poets, artists, musicians and others that had contributed to the early years of the Lewes Live Literature Festival.

February 1998: *Purgations* – first performances at All Saints Centre, Lewes, of collaborative cross artform performance work based around a sequence of meditative poems. With music for string sextet by composer Peter Copley played live as part of the performance and a sequence of images (originally pastel on black paper) by visual artist Tom Walker projected onto a gauze screen at the front of the stage. The texts were spoken from a dimly illumined cabin distorted behind the gauze.

November 1997: *First steps at long last*. Exhibition of images by Tom Walker and my own textual material related to the *Purgations* project.



PROJECTS PLANNED FOR NEAR FUTURE

Living Architecture. Project in development. With choreographer Anna Carlisle and visual artists Tom Walker and Marco Crivello. Dance / visual theatre piece exploring the human body and the space surrounding it as an architectural / geometric / navigational construct embodied in language through figures of speech. Being developed through Blank Productions for Architecture Week 2008.