James Cunningham & Jondi Keane present

Tuning Fork

In these sketches, James Cunningham and Jondi Keane construct a two-pronged approach to finding the watering hole of stillness and action, collaboration and orientation.

Thursday 8 & Friday 9 May 2008
Jonid Keane
My performance work stems from task-based activities already present in installation art. Installation wrestles with the ways that material processes organise shared experience and communal space. Working from an installation orientation, performance allows me to reconsider ideas and experiences in a bodily way, exercising my capacity to change. I usually begin the performance process by engaging with the specificity of a performance space. In this way I can break the space into a series of events (a process of perceiving) that shape what I might say and do, think and feel.

The reasons to perform include very practical impulses about how to move and complex goals involving a re-education of the senses. To this end, my performance work tends towards research, attempting to find the common points among perceptions and actions that are specific to a set of circumstances and perceptions and actions resulting from groups of people thinking into the same event-space. Performance work is perfectly suited to develop these singular and distributed connections in ways that benefit performers and observers by challenging our commitment to closure.

Jonid Keane (PhD) is an arts practitioner, critical thinker and Senior Lecturer at Griffith University. He has exhibited in the USA, UK, Europe and Australia. In 1992 he was a founding member of a collaborative interdisciplinary performance group with Vanessa Mafe, which continues to research performative actions in white box, black box and site-specific contexts.

James Cunningham
In recent years I have been looking at stillness as a starting point for an embodied performative presence, connected to my practice of yoga, meditation, dance and Theatre of the Ordinary. In this work, I'm exploring and playing with focus... my current object of attention – what I'm internally aware of, and/or literally what I am looking at. Consciously or unconsciously shifting my focus from internal to external – internally gazing, looking at my own body, or at the outside world. Looking around or focusing on a point. At times I come to a stand-still, and sometimes find myself looking at the outside world and at the internal simultaneously.

This allows me to imagine connections, and to play with perceived relationships between parts of my body, between my body and objects, between my body, objects and the built environment, and between my activities and Jonid's activities.

James Cunningham is a choreographer, performer and co-artistic director of multimedia performance company Igneous (www.igneous.org.au), collaborating primarily with multimedia artist Suzon Fuks since 1993. He has performed in Australia, Europe, the UK, Canada and India. He is also a member of the international cyberformance group ActiveLayers (www.activelayers.net)

If you would like to assist James and Jonid in the development of their work through the provision of confidential feedback – please email to old@ausdance.org.au and your comments will be forwarded anonymously to the artists.
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Bookings Essential. JWCOCA Box Office
(07) 3872 9000 Mon to Fri 12 – 4pm

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Dr Peter Brinson
Dance activist, academic and co-founder of Ausdance

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