

## **Appendix 20 \_OS EGL Dress Rehearsal**

Title: Evacuation of Great Learning: Excerpts/ Indisciplinarian's Sermon  
Type: Transcript excerpts  
Event: Dress rehearsals. Evacuation of Great Learning INSTAL 10 @ Tramway  
Date: 14 Nov 2010  
Audio: INSTAL DR0000\_0178.wav  
Video: Time Lapse: <https://vimeo.com/16943371>  
Mixer Pt 1: <https://youtu.be/5WXfiwXhqCI>  
Mixer Pt 2: <https://youtu.be/NMQenNZPFQg>  
Consent: 17:00-17:55  
Contributors: B,\_OS, members of the public P1-26 active contributors.



*Blackboard as assemblage of group contributions.  
Saying YES to all suggestions without judgement  
rather than achieving an unattainable homogenous consensus.*

0:33 – 7:57

B: I feel weird being the instigator of all this? I approached O2, O1 and \_OS and I've tried not to say anything over the last couple of days. But I just wanted to make clear what our ex- uh intentions might have been or why we set this process up just to be quite clear about all that.

5 There may have been some sensitivity about the fact that yesterday by the end of the workshop, it seemed that people were worried they had spent a lot of time and didn't have a clear direction about what they had to do. I don't think that's a waste of time you spent. **You spent 8 hours together that's a fuck load of material. You talked a lot about improvisation, improvisation never happens in the moment, it is always decisions**  
10 **made by people who already bringing material to the situation. You already have a vast amount of material**, 40 of you that's 8 hours total of 400 human hours together that's a lot of time.

15 **Worried handing you everything is daunting, I don't think it is**. Look at what O2 did on Fri night he made one decision and occupied 300 people and if it hadn't been the end of the night .. that could have gone on a lot longer. **Thinking about what you are doing I don't think it is overly daunting. You've got hours and hours of time together and material generated**.... I want to make analogy between ... uh Improvisation within  
20 music is always thought about the application of material in the moment or something. If you think about these musical ideas of improvisation and apply them, basically you spent 2 days talking about social relations.. without overdetermining what you might do I want to just simply say (rubric) why O2's work was interesting was because he applied the idea of listening as a social relation in his work. He made one decision and it worked for an hour, I don't want you to fill 4 spaces with 10 things or  
25 whatever, **I want to relieve pressure from that situation.**

30 I was also a lil worried from some of the conversations yesterday, maybe I  
am monopolising this now but from my point of view there were a lot of  
 things I really disagreed with.. but that's the point of collectivity I don't  
 think .. I think it is useful to **draw a distinction between a notion of**  
**collectivity and resisting the urge to produce something towards**  
**homogeneity.** They are very different things. A lot of problems about  
 35 decision making and consensus within the situation. These are the points  
 where we differ, **the points of divergence are the points where we have**  
**to inhabit and investigate.** *I don't think we should be overly worried*  
 about that. We have had 8 hours together, we'll have time this morning  
 and the evening *it might be naive to think* we can produce some kind of  
 40 deep collective investment in something over that period of time. It might  
 be that actually by going through this evening's process would be required  
 to produce this point of collectivity. *Again I want to be realistic and*  
*remove any kind of burden of expectation and reinforce that what we are*  
*doing is a process of collectivity and engagement already.*

45 Also I just .. last thing I want to say.. I have had 10 of you come up to me  
 with lots of proposals of things you want to do but I have not heard any of  
 them raised in the group so I think that from *my point of view a really good*  
*place to start* today might be to talk about other examples or quite a few  
 50 people have proposals about things to do which could be discussed or be  
 interesting to hear about I don't know if anyone agrees with this kind of  
 thing but it is...*anyway I started off just wanting to talk about the material*  
*conditions available to you I'll be here all this morning* ...we can get Ben  
 to come at 1230pm if we want to have a look at these other space, but I just  
 wanted to make a few opening remarks.

55 I feel like I have minimised my presence in this over the last two days  
**there is this terrible in wanting to subsume yourself into a collective is**  
**very, I think that removes cos I think that is like we all have something**  
**to add to it,** I feel like as I was the instigator I removed myself and *almost*  
*erased myself but I just wanted to take the opportunity to say a few things,*  
 60 I'll probably not say anything else again for the rest of the morning. *Just*  
*wanted to give some encouragement. Feel free to reject anything I have*  
*said. (Murmur of laughter in the room) Does anyone have anything else to*  
*add or take forward? ....*

A proposal is pitched

B: ... If we could hear the people who have proposals first and then make a  
 65 decision

P12: I would like that

Sharing continues with more verve.

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28:32

P22: ... just a time when we all are together?... just at the very, very end.

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P3: We only got 3 hours, we could that in the last hour and have everyone do

70 stuff separate but I do think it would be nice to have everyone...something involving you know what I mean...and the difficulties of everyone as well I don't think it is a bad thing to hide problems and difficulties you know what I mean? That's really what we are trying to challenge.

### Application of Guattari's Grid

75 CDL: Would it be useful ... cos we are kind of ploughing up the same old stuff again. Would it be useful or possible to have a piece of paper or a blackboard that has the time slots as opposed to divisions of times and back to concrete projects to figure out what's going to be where when what who how and then those individuals working on their group projects hash through the process so the whole group doesn't have to go through it all again. If people are up for that...

B: I can sort that out.

P9: Yea yea.

CDL: Thank you

P21: (still keen on fire alarm idea)

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34:20

85 P26: I find myself sitting here and it is Sunday, because of time we are feeling the obligation to perform... I like the idea of the anti-performance. Like us in the room discussing what the performance could be and that's our performance. If we relegate ourselves to these spaces or different groups doing different things. Like, I personally don't know who I am going to align myself with or feel that I have to participate in some way. I feel like this whole process, you know it's like, should we just ...continue the process? Do we really need to perform?

90 P19 But by continuing the process, you are making a proposal in the same way everyone else is so that's kind of like, you can't say that continuing the process isn't making a proposal.

95 PHONE interrupts...

P19 By not making a decision you are still making a decision.

*Suddenly Phone goes off on speaker phone ok no problem.. cheers bye...click*

P10: Who's calling?

100 CDL: Where's the danger? I like the idea of having different things, myself as an Improvisor, reason why I invest... I don't like the word, I don't have a lot of investments, but the reason why I spend so much time here cos as an improviser I am always seeking new territories and new mirrors to show whether or not I am risking as much as should given the privilege that I have so I think the notion of saying a non-performance is lovely, but I think it is time to get to the blackboard and making a stand... We gotta keep pushing that rock, that rock has got to be pushed. That's all I am going to say.

39:00 - 40:25

B: ... I would say it is an objectively verifiable fact that this group does not  
 110 have the mechanism to come to a consensus,  
 Embarrassed laugh.  
 but that is not a problem. Like collectivity can be a collectivity around a  
 collective investment. You've all spent hours here, you're invested in a  
 process together, that doesn't require homogeneity in what you do. I think  
 115 to confuse the two is naïve. So I think if you are invested in this process. I  
 think we should move on, you have all these proposals, I make a strong  
 suggestion that we don't have to pick one. Cos I don't think you can, I  
 think you can direct your actions, energies can be directed elsewhere, it is  
 120 a proven fact that from the last 8-9 hours we have spent together. To try to  
 reduce it to a homogenous single action is to miss the point of what a  
 collective investment is. That's not a criticism on anybody, I think it is a  
 verifiable fact. So ... (self conscious laugh) It is 11 o'clock you want to  
 speak to our technicians you want to do that from 12 30pm. (sniggers) I am  
 125 not being a dictator about this but am pointing out the material conditions  
 that you are inhabiting.

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Technical discussion of how to set up *The mixer*. See videos above.

48:30 - 50. 00

P11: Can I just say, just a really general thing, which is that, I think we should  
 try to do everything that's been suggested. Like I feel like the whole  
 process started out with lots of productive like naysaying .... no to this and  
 130 no to that and a lot of investigation, because of the time constraints, that  
 we should just say yes to everything and see where that ends up. And like  
 this idea is one of many. So let's investigate that in a group, maybe it is an  
 idea, and just commit to doing everything that has been suggested then if  
 we have to rule stuff out then good.

Agreement.

135 P10: I think that's a good idea because I think there is a danger at this point that  
 the organisers certain people who have the skills and maybe have the  
 authority start and step in and start nay saying, kind of rushing us along, I  
 did have this idea but it sounds like it is not very encouraged so I am really  
 140 up for saying yes, am really worried that things are going to be quelled  
 now by the logistics of...

P9: I think this is a very positive approach.

Laughter

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56:20 – 59:10

B: Right so anyone whose had a proposal do you want to write it on this  
 blackboard succinctly? Are we doing that? No? I thought we were.  
 145 P11: Yea back to discussion.  
 B: I am only agreeing to whatever you said we were doing. Don't look at me  
 as if I'm telling you what to do.  
 P4: I'd like to add, I think it is important, that, (Walks towards board, smaller  
 conversation) I think we should not feel constricted by things have to be

150                   happening all the time and we all have to be doing one thing. Especially, ..  
we can come and go.

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P7:     Proposals can influence each other, I really like that.

B:     You think that will happen?

P7:     How can it not?

155     Hive of activity. private conversations chatter. Loud Yawn.

B:     Maybe we can all fucking move over here and run through these proposals  
this weekend and form little groups and decide what we want to do, rather  
than equivocating and arguing about it and then winding me up...

P 12:   Unless that is the proposal.

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160     1:05:20 Satisfying chalk on board. "purposely interfering with your recording".

CDL:   Do we have everything on the board! (claps) Last call.

Discussion in brief: OS seek a plan to mike up the foyer and start plotting technical  
requirements. To bring the politics of the space to the fore.

A lot of discussion, very chaotic.

1:14:23

P10:   Can we actually listen to each other's proposals. I am having a strop.

P 9:    What?

P10:   I'm having a strop.

1: 23: 20 A good period of discussing and watching the ideas populate the board and  
change in gears noted.

1:17:28 –1:22:44

165           CDL:   Since the listening room came up. I'll talk about it real quickly, is that ok.  
The listening room came to me this morning trying to listen to everyone  
and talking too much. But the motto would be: Whatever you do or say we  
will listen. It would be open to any number of people and probably be best  
170           in the studio or tramway 4. But it would be a group of people who would  
be there scattered and willing to listen. If someone wanted to come in to  
talk to someone, someone wanted to just do something... those in the  
listening there first would be silent would only listen. Try to convey what  
is called positive regard pioneered by the American psychologist Carl  
Rodgers who believed that inside oneself to try and summon everything  
175           within yourself to see the best in that person regardless of how, who they  
are or what they are if they are wonderful or malevolent, malignant or what  
not.

180           ...This should be discussed, there should be someone stationed at the  
beginning to explain, also someone with good genial regard to say this is  
the listening room (gently...) we are here to listen to you, just because we  
don't talk back doesn't mean we are not listening to you. Come and join us  
and do what you will.

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P3:     It could be a Tramway person.

185 CDL: That's my gut it is a big ask, to ask staff to do, cos again that's indicting or implicating people without their consent. They are in tough position because artist's are asking me, do I say yes or no to them, will it screw me up so...

190 P6: At the same time I think it's like part of the involvement of the Tramway staff, it would be useful when we have these proposals, have some way of showing them...Most of them are artists as well and they would be quite keen to get involved in some way.

P20: Yea one way to involve that, I would be to volunteer to work instead of them for a while so they can go and do...like literally be involved not just wear a sign like I am an usher like that's what we do.

195 P8: I think there is gonna be confusion tonight as well, cos its is not programmed, we are not going to bring anything and we are doing so many different things like... it'd be good that the staff know as much as possible.

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Proposals are crossed off and discussions to new ones push through.

CDL: Be a quiet space. which we haven't had much of that this weekend.

200 P18: I really like that idea and I am very willing in fact to sit quietly and listen.

205 P7: In terms of involving staff, was thinking of miking up the walkie talkies staff are using and maybe give them a performance to make, of giving them code words, for someone not having fun, so they can describe what's going on. Their job is to make sure the spaces are used properly and there is no danger, so we can subvert this and give them something to do. But in terms of involving staff, can't make too many asks of them, if there was to be something to have staff involved maybe just one or two things...

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Conversations overlap, logistics and spaces are negotiated. The mixer seems to be imprinting the air between all spaces.

210 P5: There will be some technical limitations we will have to expect.

P7 Whose proposal hasn't been discussed yet... does anyone want to...

215 P10: Um yea What's been happening to me over the last two days is I am deaf and wear a hearing aid and have become increasingly worn out by the amount of sound in the building. Am also increasingly worn out ...and concerned about the level of electricity and technology that is sort of dominating everything that we do. Am not sure if we are appropriating or using it for our means or whether they are using us. The main thing is that I am very worn out.

220 I've just been walking around just now, out there the stairs the creaking, I can hear my trousers swishing there's a lot of stuff going on and I feel like, it's been awesome it's also quite disturbing me. So many performances yesterday. What is it when you fill up a jug...

B: Saturated.

P10: Yes totally saturated.

225 ST: A listening room?

P10: So I had a simple idea which was ... just

P7: Create a space free from electricity and technology.

230

P10: That's free of electricity and technology, includes this bit here where there are bodies, we make sounds we move, maybe use what is already in the environment, move our bodies, it's just a very simple back-to-basics idea. Very [?]neo calm idea. ...

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P5: We got evacuate?

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P21: Just to be really clear I wasn't suggesting that anyone pull the alarm at any point. Just to be really clear, as I won't sleep well I will feel really guilty because either tramway or arika will get fined a lot.

P19: There is actually an option maybe that we can warn the fire brigade in advance and everyone goes out and no 11 fire brigade cars come out and no fine probably.

240

P5: It does mean the end of the evening you realise...it will take 2 and a half hours to get everyone...

P20: Not necessarily. Not if it's a fire check.

P5: Yea but how is that going to be organised through the building.

P3: That would be work for the staff that would be work for them to.

P5: To set a time.

245

P 26: An alternative way to do it would be for everybody whose got, to set their mobile phone alarm for

P 5: A certain time.

P21: Evacuate everyone back into the assembly.

Agreeable murmurs.

250

P11: Are we going to synchronise watches?

Jubliant cheer and Jolliment.

Here on La Grille takes on a life of its own, idea sharing and pragmatics of locations lead to direct and purposeful communication. Linking ideas with same themes, technical needs or spaces. Active listening enacted. Peer pressure, self governance, loud sshushing minor conversations to give each contributor attention and lead to coherent mutuality. The group naturally is concerned with extending the invitation to encourage participation from strangers to the space.

255

P5: Give microphones to the audience, they can make random sounds with what is in their pocket. I don't if technical stuff it is possible. We're talking about using the artist to make work and actually all this involves us.

P2: Could work with the idea about having some interconnected sound spaces but also having spaces where people can make sounds into the introspected area which aren't already prescribed for some of these performances. We can set up some microphones or something, which are not prescribed, and you can encourage people to make sounds into that.

260

P 7: Yesterday, when in Vanessa's Q&A we had a piece of someone else's music playing through. If we could ask people coming through the door, to play what they were listening as they were coming into the door. Say take their ear buds out and plug it straight in. Listen to the cross over. (pause) Both those ideas could work with the space coming up from mixing desk.



265 P 18: That could really work with the listening room actually, that's about listening without judgement it is just being reproduced and that could be in the listening room..

P11: One thing that wasn't written down, is what you were saying yesterday about generally committing to some kind of sabotage, I think there's like  
270 room for that.

P19: I wouldn't mind finding out if the mixing desks or microphones could be reconfigured. If somebody gets bored...

P11: I think kind of a more general thing.

P7: The important thing about sabotage is, sabotage is it isn't just about  
275 erasing what other people are doing, it's not just cancelling the effectiveness of other people. Somehow turning it into something else.

P3: But why sabotage as well. I have to think, you don't... are you a total nihilist and you want to sabotage for sabotaging or sabotage for a reason. Saboteurs sabotage.

280 P11: Something about what you said about the relationship with capitalism and consumption and commodification, if you are destabilising things generally throughout the night then you are keeping things moving and things so things don't become too reliable or too normal.

285 P19: Hopefully sabotaging with some kind of creative intent. If I plug that in there and something happens instead of what we said would happen. And not just cutting the power off and we all go home.

General laughter.

CDL clarifying technical query.

290 P2: .. that is what O2 was saying if there was a space where only 1 person talking. It could be really noisy all this stuff in a good way. And like it might be like the performance Friday night, it was becoming really noisy. Then what I wanted to then was to just pull out the plug 10 mins before and suddenly it would be silent again and then there could be an awareness coming back after the saturation.

295 P10: Could we have like a master switch which is open to anyone to turn off or on all the amplification in the building.

General laughter.

P10: And there is a sign on it saying.

P 12: CRITIC.

300 CDL: To kind of keep rolling through this, I did have one other ongoing debate. Adam said no more ongoing debate. This could tie in with the cardew discussion. Cos Cardew actually I think is profoundly connected to notions of group and collective action, but what makes a political music. "Ongoing debate", that was my other ... sound walk and I'll just remove that, that  
305 was my idea...Ongoing debate was the notion to keep (chalk sound drags across board) keep this swamp like group process going for those who want to participate or arrest it, or a return to the halcyon days of the group trying to figure out if small group or big group?

*Laughter.*

310 I was thinking it could be in tramway 1, under the balcony, ongoing thing or not.

## Scientific open proposition

- 315 P15: I just want to visualise the sound vibration, so these are the constant grain of powder which is falling down and maybe we can ( grabs chalk to draw)...this is the stage and we can set up some dancer or some table here it's like when those powder keep falling down there, uh the human becomes like object, because the powder accumulates on our body and those speakers are just constant vibration and maybe the powder will be move around. I don't know now who or what the content will
- 320 play ..(rubbing out on the board) I just think a wall of tv with different channels and they just play.
- P26: It sounds awesome but it sounds technically...
- :
- P7: What happens to things like smoke and dust when there's a standing wave. When there is a...
- 325 P11: I think I looked into once and it's not as simple as you'd think basically, you need some kind of laser skying in order to detect the vibration just due to the
- P7: minuteness...
- P11: particle size and the level of energy. I can't remember it.
- 330 P14: Or moisture, it's complex but we have the smoke machine. We could try it...
- CDL: So what would be the place to theorise this then? (murmur uncertainty) Tramway 1? So do we have everything?

**Enter the explicator**

- 335 P12: I think it is kind of important, how is the audience gonna feel they are going to do all this. We've been soaking in this but how are... are we assuming they are gonna come in and want to jingle their keys.
- P7: I think it has gotta be a mix of asking people to do stuff, like speak into microphones or hand over their music or whatever...
- 340 P12: So should we all have a plan...
- P9: Could we set the scene, B sets the scene for lots of things and say there are spaces... the mixer, speak into the microphone, sit down, join the discussion, y'know at the beginning of the whole evening.
- 345 P25: I think the tone needs to be invitational rather than any sort of pressure or any kind of requirement, which is very warmly invitational.
- P2: I think that you could... like if, so something like this mixing desk could be really sabotaging to other people's things. It is like an important thing to keep is attention, in mind and spirit, but it could be like, affecting people by taking this sort of decision.
- 350 P7: The Milgram experiment.
- P21: We probably need someone explaining in each space in general or probably both. There probably needs to be someone in front explaining ..
- P11: Maybe just for the rooms like the listening room. I don't think every single thing.
- 355 P21: I think probably everything needs. Unless we don't want to explain.

P14: One question, do we maybe, one question, do we have time to make a programme?

P21: That would be sweet.

P12: I thought the motto is quite clear.

360 P14: What is it?

P12: It's just "you are here."

P14: So, no presentation or anything, we just start doing it.

P22: I think it needs a frame to the overall thing, to explain what we've done.  
No?

365 P 5: Yea but no..Not everybody will arrive at the same time, you know, there will be coming in different waves. We either have some signpost if we can find something or we tell them that they have discovered what is going on.

P13: it is billed for 730 til...

370 P6: You could also have each thing, a handwritten proposal or score or statement that is maybe rejectable form of what's happening in that space or time. You don't always have to rely on verbal.

P23: Would it help us now all to agree that all the smaller groups working out each thing is going to at least give some consideration to how it is presented to the audience whichever way that will be.

1:52 -1:54 Allocating time and conscious of tech requirement deadlines. P3 who has been quite quiet...summarises the spaces, purposes and tech needs succinctly. Active listening.

1:58:00 Synchronise the watches! 5-4-3-2-1

Mobile phone test alarm goes off. Lots of cross talk.

375 B: Can I say something about this. You're all just guessing. I know how it works.

*Loud SHushH...*

380 Just practically. If you want to set off the fire alarm, if you don't tell me that you're going to do it then the fire brigade will turn up probably with 12 fire engines cos its the Scottish Ballet and fine us £900. If you tell us in advance that you want to do it. We can set up an actual fire alarm and tell them it is a drill and that can happen at any time but it normally evacuates people out of the building. BUT there is a PA within the building used for emergency announcements at the box office, if any of you wants to restage an alarm, which sounds like an alarm, which goes through all the alarm systems pa which happens within the building, but you want to say anything other than a pre-recorded alarm you can do it and direct people anywhere you want. There you go that's the technicalities of that.

385

Discussions carry on. A vote is taken on which option they can agree it. Rooms are available and technicians available soon, groups break out to discuss details. The atomic particle proposal is swallowed up in the noise and there is quiet disappointment.