

Appendix TC 2 Property & theft transcript

Title: Post Performance Discussion
Event: Opening Night of Open Source Theatre's (OST) Interactive Play Property and Theft set in Tollcross Community Centre
Category: Discussion/ Reflection/ Crit
Format : Transcript of a post-performance discussion/ Images/ Press/ Poster
Contributors: P1-5 Audience members, OST,
HG – director
SG: Actor who played the Security guard
DC: Actor who played the Debt counsellor
Fortune: Actor who played the Fortune teller
Becky: Actor who was in charge of the stall a market trader
OB TC filmmaker /Photographer
Date: 11/3/11



Post performance Q&A with cast and audience Video Still. Stefanie Tan

HG: One thing that you found interesting?

P1: Stimulating environment. Unsettling. The whole interactive vibe. .. thinking on your feet. Once you warm up a little bit. Interesting nonetheless a lot of fun.

P2: The interactive confession. Made me step out of my comfort zone.

5 P3: (contemplative) It looked like a bazaar and we had a bazaar in the end. Exchanging of skills in a completely free market, we are so regulated these days you have completely forgotten the route back. It was interesting to see all of that just in terms of a micro kind of level. (Tongue in cheek) I'm looking forward to finally learning how to use excel. (Laughter)

10 HG: For me when we auction it, how you can get, I know Becky can get things to feel much more worth [excitable] than we began just because there is competition for it.

S: Fine line between real and staged chaos - surreal setting

15 P4: Level of detail around the room, in all of the things, this wall of stuff, the poetry, the quotation from adverts, all really creepy and well put together. It is hard to tell which things you guys put in here and which things were in the room. I don't think you brought those hats, drum or the deer?

HG: Will pass compliments on to design team.

S: (In awe) Done in just 2 hours.

- 20 HG: Made everything yesterday and brought everything in and did it in 2 hours today.
.. hey Ollie how was that to photograph? What was most interesting for you?
(Ollie was TC contributor and photographer)
- O.B: People's reactions generally, it was fantastic.
- HG: Artists
- 25 P4: Nervous about security guards, not sure if she read that I was shy or if that was
the way she had to be... but had an intellectual discussion when she searched my
bag.
- HG: What about?
- Security Guard (SG):
- 30 I don't remember, she had lots of badges.
- P4: It was interesting... I can't remember. It was something about whether we own
our thoughts?
- P1: I missed the SG.
- SG: I was pretty occupied.
- 35 HG: Not everyone gets to see everything, but most get to see most of it.
- Debt counsellor (DC):
- Did I push too much, were you ok with the things I made you do? Or should I
push more?
- P1: Impressively robotic
- 40 DC: Yea? That's good.
- P3: It was at the right level cos you don't want to be too easy. It made the question...
I remember with mine... I didn't want to be shouting it out... ok let's go for it,
had to think on my feet.
- DC: I made you dance as well.
- 45 P3: Dance to your favourite music and shout I'm sorry for stealing you.
- P4: Did you steal it?
- P3: I think Dale stole it and I stole it from Dale.

P4: You were an accessory to theft.

P3: Yes, On many levels.

50 HG: So did people felt like they were being taken to an interesting space without being forced?

General murmur

Fortune Teller:

55 What I found was that **people actually comply a lot and obey** actors, I am afraid of asking too much because they may do it cos they think they have to.

HG: That power is fascinating, the amount of power you have as an actor cos the audience wants to be told what to do. ... very rarely do people refuse... I quite like it when they do actually... We had somebody walk away from you.

Fortune gestures at P4.

60 HG: Brilliant well done.

P4: I got confused.

Laughter

P4: I wasn't sure if I was supposed to be confused or if I... you were the first thing I went to in the room.

65 Fortune: You too as well?

P1: Me too, again confusion more than being strong willed. When the options were paying her £50 or there were no other options. (Laughter) I was genuinely ... I don't have £50 what am I gonna do?

P3: Mine was pay me a £100 or we tell the police. (Laugh) Or you can do a dance and
70 say out loud I am sorry for stealing. ... I thought shit I better do the dance.

HG: Some walking away at the point where they could actually apologise for their sin.

P4: I walked away.

Fortune: I don't think you actually confessed.

P4: I did confess, but with some kind of bullshit confession that isn't really a
75 confession much of anything, like I didn't do the recycling.

Fortune: I think it is simplified.

P4: The way the interaction was, like when you phone a robot, and you get the robot option but I am confronted with that person and it wasn't like I could hang up, then I couldn't get the curtain closed.

80 HG: We need to improve the mechanism. That's wonderful. If you just leave her then you usually keep talking until your sensors detect there is no one there. It is **creepy to watch when someone leaves it actually.**

Fortune: Like the Spanish people were just trying to take a photo of them with me. I was

Just repeating do you want it in Spanish or in Russian?

85 HG: Did they ask for it in Spanish?

Fortune: They asked for it in Russian, I said the option wasn't available, then they asked for it in Spanish and I did it in Spanish.

The issue of Value - needs and inflated needs

Becky: Why didn't you buy stuff? Any way to improve?

P5: You wanted like £50.

90 P1: Everyone wanted £50.

P3: I had an option of £50 or 25p. If I had been here longer I would probably have bought some random piece of tat for my mantle piece.

Becky: I sold the play and the lantern thing

Fortune: **Which I have because they gave me that instead of money.** (Laughter)

95 P1: The system works.

P3: The **great material continuum.**

HG: Interesting to hear about the amounts of money because this was an experiment from you trying higher values.

Becky: Yea I got £5 in the last session, I said £5 and I didn't think they'd give it to me but
100 they did.

P1: Like a market stall.

- HG: It is what it is it is a market stall. We were trying to find the level that was too high that people would haggle her down. Eventually we will find that, we aren't experienced micro traders so we don't know.
- 105 DC: How much people were performing in the debt room. How did being removed from the space affect.
- P1: I made everything up. I respect P5 but I don't listen. I am trying to find my plan.
- P3: I'll be paying my debt to South Wales by teaching Wales throughout this week and wearing my rugby top on the Sunday. I only know one welsh swear word.
- 110 Participants reach in pockets with slips of paper.
- HG: I haven't actually seen this spreadsheet. Well did going into the room make you feel sensitive or emotional?
- P1: It makes you think about things, amongst the lies.
- P4: I didn't think I would end up taking it as seriously as I ended up taking it, but I think I am going to carry out my plan.
- 115 HG: Good, you should, you'll get an email from us, that's nice to hear, am obsessed with making people actually do things.
- P3: It is like a birth place. I'm probably coming from my job right now, because I've spent the last week telling people to be careful how they regulate products and stuff, (sighs) seeing everything so cut back, I was thinking like wow, everything is so heavily regulated these days. You got to go through so many barriers before you even get this thing then when you get it, all you get is a piece of paper saying that you have it you don't even get to see this thing, it is all finance stuff. So coming here and actually seeing the straight physical thing, there here you go done. The trade of skills was refreshing just nice to see it again.
- 120 P4: Do you think it is a birthplace for capitalism or just market economy and trading in general?
- P3: Oh goodness.
- P4: There is no capital involved in any of the markets here.
- 125 P1: I lost 40p
- 130

P3: I paid a £1 to be heard at the confessional.

P4: .. but yea you had like an exchange of resources.

HG: We have to round up just to clear out of here by 9.

135 P5: Can I add what I think, I'd find it more relevant to my normal life, if it was like
groceries or something that's really functional that I'd buy anyway, more like
services I needed in my normal life. Some of the emotional reflection was really
nice but then it would be more relevant. If I knew a bit more about skill exchange
like skill economy exchanges over the internet ST: add to Value discussion
above. An instinct for subsistence the worth of things quite basic simple, in a
140 decaying capitalism.

Hg: Any final thoughts

P1: What, where is the glue factory?

P4: Who are your investors.

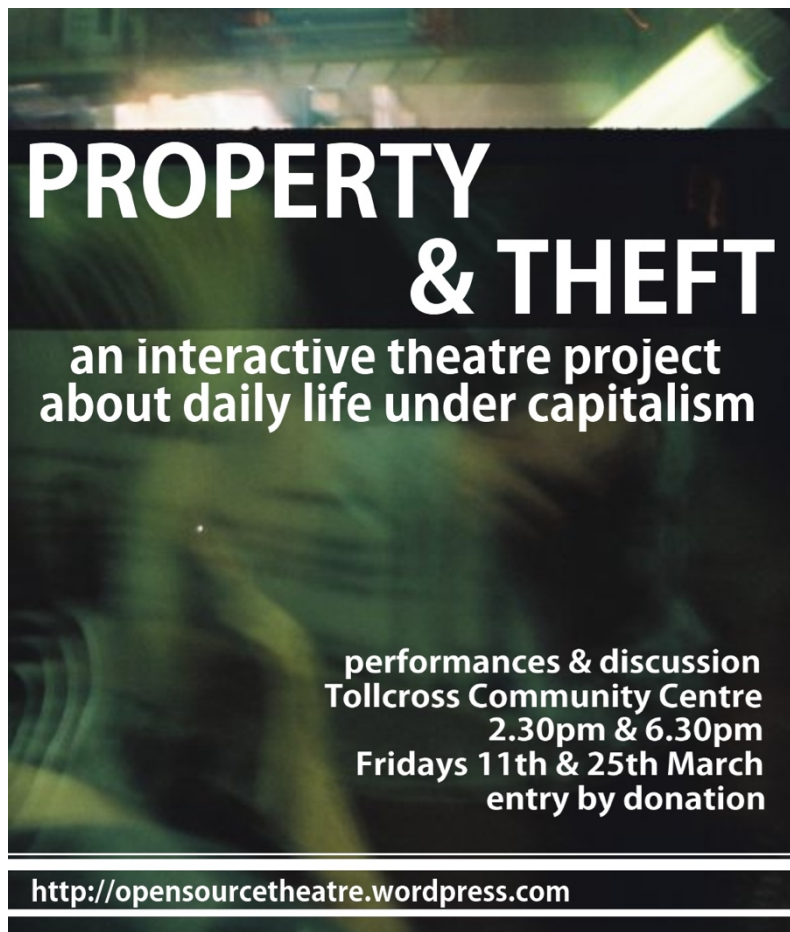
145 HG: We have no investors apart from this collection which invested materials and
space.

S: It is a weird patronage position, as we are very uncomfortable with, because we
try not to curate things yet we invite people to do stuff, can we live without power
or being directed?

150 HG: For me a lot of these displays are satires on elements of capitalism, but also
experiencing capitalism's decay- like this is what you would get if there was a
nuclear war and not much of what we have today remained.

FIN

Note to self: The regulation of trade, the bureaucracy has separated us from what trade
actually looks like, the virtual invisible wave of math and forms have dehumanised the
relationships that result from exchanges. Capital has obscured the face of community.



open source theatre

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Poster for event designed by OST

Throwing theatre wide open in Tollcross

Guest blogger Harry Giles tells us the Open Source Theatre Company is bringing a unique interactive project to Edinburgh's communities

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A local theatre group is hoping to create new and exciting ways for Edinburgh residents to participate in performances through its project at Tollcross Community Centre, Property and Theft.

Said the designer of Property and Theft, Emma O'Rourke:

"We're really excited to be doing this project at Tollcross. It's not traditional theatre, and so it's important that we don't do it in a traditional setting: we're finding entertaining and interesting ways to get people to interact with performers, and we're hoping that by running the project at Tollcross we'll be bringing in a really diverse crowd.

"We really want to remove the barriers to participating in theatre.

"So it's about getting people to be part of the show itself, but it's also about who we market to and how accessible the piece can be. We're trying to throw the doors of theatre wide open."

The project has been in development over the past year in a wide range of locations, with performances and workshops in places as diverse as the Soho Theatre in London, the Forest Fringe in Edinburgh, and on the streets of Essex.

During the piece, audience members will be encouraged to interact with performers, and share their ideas and experiences. Each performance will also be followed by an audience discussion to help the team develop the project.

"Interactive theatre excites me because it channels the interest and energy of the audience directly into a performance of their own," said one of the actors, Olivia Furber.

"It gives people the chance explore issues that are difficult in day-to-day conversation by creating a safe space in which the lines between performance and normality are blurred."

Property and Theft will give four performances over the coming month at Tollcross Community Centre, at 2.30pm and 6.30pm on Fridays 11 and 25 March. Entry is by donation. [More information on the company website.](#)

Harry Giles is a theatre director, poet and fundraiser. See his personal blog [here](#). Find out more about the Open Source Theatre in our previous post on [This Collection](#).

Posted by
Harry Giles Monday
7 March 2011
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Debt counsellor service, making a plan for client to relieve her perceived debt to society for having middle class privilege. Photo: Oliver Benton.



Market stall barter and trade for found treasure. What defines value? Photo: Oliver Benton



Security guard inspecting bystander's bag which ensues philosophical discussion of who owns thoughts. Photo: Oliver Benton