

Brief audience feedback/discussion recorded by Charlie Davison (volunteer) immediately after:-

1<sup>st</sup> performance KATIE BAIRD: ALL BY MYSELF

2<sup>nd</sup> performance JANINE FLETCHER: TRACE ELEMENTS

Colchester Arts Centre, 25th February 2015

Charlie:- *What did you think?*

Audience member (male 1):- *The first one I thought was sublime, although I thought that it completely summed up my artistic practice over the last 10 years in about 10 minutes and did it better!*

*The second piece I thought it was very good. It made me feel very uncomfortable. I'm a natural fidgeter and so seeing that on the stage makes you feel rather uncomfortable. However, the technique and the physicality was very impressive and..... Yes... It was very enjoyable.*

Charlie:- *Uh huh .. With the first piece, you said about your own work - what were the themes that you were thinking about?*

Audience member (male 1):- *I've spent the last 10 years miming to pop songs and smashing bits of computer equipment on stage. I think that pretty much... um... It speaks for itself, really.*

Charlie:- *Yeah, yeah - that's a coincidence?!*

Audience member (male 1):- *Yeah... yeah.*

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Audience member (female 1):- *I didn't understand it at all!*

Charlie :- *Which one? We've just seen two things...*

Audience member (female 1):- *The second one. The first one, I felt sorry for the laptop (laughs). Yeah... But I think that's the relationship that everyone has with technology now, isn't it? The fact that everyone is so dependent on it. You know that's how people have... The struggle of not having that technology there is, like, BAD... (Laughs)*

Charlie :- *So the first one spoke to you, then?*

Audience member *Yeah, yeah. The second one... I felt scared*

(female 1):- *for that poor lady... (laughs)... You know? The cycle of... I don't even know what! (laughs) I don't know..it was different!..It was good. It was different. Strange, yeah...*

Charlie :- *You started off saying that you didn't understand it - is that what you said?*

Audience member (female 1):- *Yeah... I'm not quite sure what I was expecting - but I didn't expect that! (laughs)*

Charlie :- *Do you think that we were meant to think something? Or is that maybe a bit too easy...? What do you think?*

Audience member (female 1):- *Errr - Not quite sure to be honest! Yeah, I don't know... It just really confused me! (Laughs)... Sat there. I felt really awkward for her.*

Charlie :- *Have you seen anything like that before?*

Audience member (female 1):- *Err.. No, I haven't seen anything like that, no..... No. I mean we come here often, so we do see some crazy stuff! But that one was awkward to watch, wasn't it? Because, I'm not sure... You expect something big, but it just doesn't happen. But, I don't know, it kind of drives you crazy that she's going round in the same cycle that you want to break for her (laughter).*

Charlie :- *So when you get in tonight, and one of your mates says, "what did you see, what did you think?" And you only have two or three words to say... What will you say?*

Audience member (female 1):- *Umm... Really awkward. Different, but still quite captivating. I couldn't not look at her - you couldn't not watch it. I don't know, you knew that she was going round in the same kind of cycle. It was getting a bit bigger every time - or a bit added on. But you still wanted to watch every... every little movement she did, I must admit. So definitely different... Yeah... Captivating... Yeah.*

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Charlie:- *No-one will ever know who you are! You can say what you like. So... We've seen two things... What was your impression?*

Audience member *Yeah - I really enjoyed it! I've not*

(male 2):- *really seen much dance stuff before, so... I thought the second performance was really amazing! And, you know, the first one was quite funny.*

Charlie :- *So.. you found the first one funny? What sort of message did you take from it?*

Audience member  
(male 2):- *(laughter) I don't know if I took a message! (laughs) I didn't know anything about either performance before I come, so, err, when she did that talk at the start, that awkward talk, you know, I thought that that was what it actually was - it was going to be that talk! So I was surprised. And when she knocked her laptop off, I thought she really was actually getting flustered..*

Charlie:- *Did you? I thought exactly the same!*

Audience member  
(male 2):- *Yeah, so it was very well played.*

Charlie:- *To me it had, you know, quite a clear message about people's dependence on the Internet and wanting to be liberated from that. Do you think I'm on the money? Or have I got that wrong? A bit simplistic?*

Audience member  
(male 2):- *Yeah... I mean I got that sometimes as well. You know I feel that, you can't leave the Internet behind and you're always contactable. And you're always...you feel like if you aren't on there you're almost, it's actually like you're ignoring someone, even though you're not actually ignoring them. You know, so I can see that. And yeah, just the general frustration of it (laughs).*

Charlie:- *Tell me about the second one a minute. Both the people I was just talking to said the same word about it. They said, err, "awkward". Did it strike you like that?*

Audience member  
(male 2):- *Yeah... I suppose a bit. I can see, like, yeah... The repetition and the reaching out and the pulling herself back in. Like trying to reach out to people or talk to people and, you know, being overcome by self-consciousness, almost, or realizing that you shouldn't be giving so much of yourself away. And like I say, I haven't really seen anything like that before.*

Charlie:- *No, nor had I. The thing that struck me about it was the repetition, the constant repetition. What do you think that was*

*about? Was it about anything?*

Audience member  
(male 2):-

*Uh, yeah. It's... You get stuck into repetition, don't you? Like... You do the same journey every day, you do the same job every day, you do the same things every day - You do get stuck into a loop. You want to do something different, but even doing something different you end up doing the same thing every day.*

*You see, she started with small repetitions, and then the bit that got repeated got longer and longer - like a sort of upgrade, or as you grow up, or whatever.*

Charlie:-

*To begin with, it seemed strangely devoid of emotion, but by the end of it I felt slightly different to that - I mean what did you think?*

Audience member  
(male 2):-

*I agree, but I don't know if it's devoid of emotion as such, it's just... like I was saying, you might, err, you don't outwardly show what you're thinking, do you? You're just blank. But if you watch anybody for a long period of time, you realize that actually, they're not blank. They are thinking things out. So it's about the frustration of that.*

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