

An Affective Document of Performance, Made Throughout OUI #1

Steve Humble

2010

Physical pain; physical deterioration, the possibility and certainty of duration, A yellow liquid, urine, but not urine, transferred from one bowl to another; a man claps, a man claps, a man claps, clap, clap, clap, clap, clap, clap.....Repeatedly you will genuflect; rise; and repeat; your pain is palpable; pain. Another man claps – is he a rebel? Or a conformist, or is he a red bull – is he regurgitating Red Bull? Red Bull=Rebel=Red Bull=rebel=redbull=Rebel=Red Bull=rebel; one vessel (One Vessel) drained, one vessel filled; to the point of overflowing; cascade; a steady trickle (piss); you are a vessel of transference – a receptacle; A man urinates (piss) against a board and uses a tee-shirt to mop up his own urine (t-shirt);

Meditative

Rebel Rebel – your face is a mess; Every me and every you – songtitles might aptly be the measure of a life;

Can I join in? Can I join in?

Redundancy of labour; wasted effort; dysfunctional labour; and back again – vessel to vessel; labour intensive;

Labour – the act of giving birth – the ultimate labour; that which imagines a life; that which produces outside of a cheap fiscal judgement (system); beyond price;

A wall that is not a wall; a wall that is not; a divide; a division; a division of means – a socially divisive device; a device to divide; division; social division; (anti-social) that which cannot be breached; that which cannot be reached – you who cannot be reached; beyond reach; beyond connection; out of touch.

Bound; an arm bound; and unbound; binding and unbinding; (bonds) all that I have seen; all that I have not seen; all that I have not (seen) – scene;

Binding and unbinding; binding; unbinding; bound by convention and unbound; boundless; that which is; that which is; that which is not;

That which is not (is);

Lucky rabbit; dead rabbit; lucky dice; furry dice; rabbit without fur – naked and eviscerated – One bowl emptied and one bowl filling up; one empty; one full – temporarily; one being emptied, one being filled – in the process of emptying and filling (process)

A bowl of milk; a coffee; Bound arm; bathed milk; a balm; soothed but with no comfort

(no relief)

The milk is spilt – there's no point in crying over it; what's done is done; there is no point in regretting what has passed; the past is done; the past cannot be changed (the past is a lie) I cannot change what has been done; neither can you – we are all products of the past; the future is not known and the present only exists when it is already done; the present does not exist;

Polish your shoes; polish your shoes – is it school tomorrow?

A wall that moves and wobbles – an imperfect wall; a wall not fit for purpose; (wall)

Put whisky in your shoes – will it make them shine?

Trousers off; shirt off; t-shirt off; are those shoes shining yet? Put on your whisky shoes; put on your shoes;

put on your piss t-shirt;

Keep filling the bowl until it overflows; keep filling the bowl; badly done DIY;

Please keep swinging that t-shirt (keep swinging) a different one; black this time and not white and piss-soaked (piss); Lemons; boots and shoeboxes; Strings and threads; walk around; walkabout; walk the walk but don't talk the talk; Smash a stool and make a banner-stand; Harold Pinter – The Caretaker – has care been taken? Whose duty would it be to care? – who fucking cares? Who fucking cares?

Shadows and lights – reproductions and copies; in focus and out of focus (focus)(focus);

Redundancy;

Children – what are they making of this? – this pointlessness; this redundant labour?

The Caretaker – take good care, my friend – always take good care; take care of that which needs to be taken care of; always; what are those things that need to be taken care of? – how is that decided; how does one decide? I don't care; I don't fucking care – nobody fucking cares; Rabbit skinned; rabbit-skin glue; rabbit come unstuck; unstuck; you have come unglued; unhinged; you are a loose cannon – a fucking liability; liability; lie-ability; able to lie; you are a fucking liar; able; capable; a capable liar; culpable; a culpable liar; we are all fucking culpable, we are all responsible; for our actions and for our words;

Rabbit – man; man – rabbit

man = rabbit ; rabbit = man

man|-----pole-----|rabbit|(wall)

clearing up the pieces – picking up the bits; tying up the loose ends;

Swinging the lead (keep swinging)(boys)(and girls); swinging a dead

cat; swinging a t-shirt.

A stag; caught in the light; a photograph of a stag, stapled to a piece of wood and held in the beam of a projector.

Let it shine; let it shine on; let it shine on; shine on; stag; shine on – moon; moon-stag.

Caught in the glare; caught in the light;

Bone, a piece of bone; a scapula; a shoulder blade (bone); A board with nothing on it; held aloft; like a banner; display; a display; proclaiming something and nothing (nothing);

Converse; Allstars;

The converse; spit and bile spit and whisky; let it all out; letting it all out; physically degraded and mentally focussed;

A false wall; falsity (=);

You write; I write;

whisky and spit; more spit than whisky; what is done and what is not done; that which is liked and that which is unliked;

That which is liked;

Castor – spin; castor spin; castor spin; spin; spin; spin spin sugar – caster-sugar; castor, sugar; (sweet)

Eyes covered and trembling – with fear? with excitement? with anticipation – pants around your ankles; gaffer-taped eyes – that which can be seen and that which cannot be seen (seen); a woman drinks juice – slurping loudly;

Furry dice tied to your cock – lucky?

Trembling hands carrying a bowl of an unknown liquid mixed with saliva – it looks like urine; walkaround walk around; walker round; walk – a – round walker round this cool damp space; these dice may bring no good fortune – empty totems hanging like a sad scrotum in this cold air (scrotum)

rabbit cold and naked is hung on a nail driven into a wall – already there; conveniently driven; a repository, a resting place, a convenient perch.

Wood and ribbon; ribbon and wood – percussive clatter on bare tiles. It's all bared; bare-arsed and open onto the world; clatter, bang, clatter, bang; keep turning the castor; keep turning the wood;

muscle rub; embrocation; deep-heat – feeling the heat; smell the liniment, smell the ointment; smell the coffee; spit in the soup (wake up) –

red ribbon; wound and unwound

red ribbon – a wound

wound = wound;

a biscuit up the arse – with a bite out of it; audience participation; an invitation, of a sort; (digestive) (alimentary);

candle and red binding; but not bound together in the same person (bound, separate);

Dead rabbit procession; finding balance; a hand also bound in red ribbon; bound and unbound (wound and unwound);

rabbit – man ; man – rabbit

(wall)|rabbit|-----pole-----|man

rabbit

|

|

pole

|

|

man

(floor)

Fork ; red-ribbon-bound-hand; fork; red ribbon; fork; red ribbon whisky and shoes, shoes and whisky; knife and lemon; lemon squeezed into shoes; lemon shoes (squeezed)(tight);

whisky on shoes; whisky shoes; that will not burn (burn);

whisky shoes – that will not burn;

whisky = shoes

candlelight; rabbit; rabbit; candlelight;

Totem; photographs; images; shoe burn rabbit; burn; burn;

whisky; spit – dribbles down your totem-pole; dribbles under your shoe; candle wax; dripped onto printed images; printed image; the representation of the re-presented;

burn marks on the non-wall; wall that is no wall (wall); whisky and spit passed from one mouth to another – an alcoholic blowback;

spit and whisky; whisky and spit – a banner and a stool inadvertently fall; a binding becomes tighter and looser; undesigned and unchoreographed;

green hands; green feet; red shoes red ribbon – bound and unbound; a totem and shoe – leaned casually against a wall; proximal; proximity; close in space.

Dysfunctional labour; ways of thinking about and relating through art; (fart)

a man with a stool on his arm walking the floor on all fours.

A red-ribbon – wound and knotted and un-knotted and wound and bound; a wound – shared and unbound between two people;

drawing with urine – urine drawings; finely traced (piss)

Four legs of a stool; placed into holes punched in a wall with a claw hammer;

echoes of a 'ghost' playing repeatedly; strapped to a left leg; (a ghost on the left)

A piss-soaked t-shirt (urine) – lovingly treasured and held like a child on a left shoulder; wash your feet with whisky; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost.....the word is and isn't; is both ghost and is not – trace and re-presented thing that speaks of ghost and is a ghost of a former incarnation and presence

– a re-presenting (in this space);

a lucky black cat; or an unlucky one? loving; cosseting, loving t-shirt (piss); loving the ghost knocking on the wall; let the ghost in;

dressing; undressing; dressing; undressing; dressing; undressing;

loving some dead thing – like a stillborn child clutched to a shoulder (a ghost on the left); knocking; knocking; knocking – is there anybody there? – OUI, JA; no – there is nobody;

pleat; unpleat; repeat; dress and undress; ritual; ritual; ritual; ritual; ritual; ritual; repeat; there are no ghosts here; only the ghosts of a previous incarnation; ghost; ghost; - a ghost; a ghost; a ghost; aghost; aghost; aghost at a ghost (ghost)

possibility of performance; certainty of duration; possibility; certainty; keep knocking, but you can('t) come in; see – you're already here; already present; arrived; present and correct; (pre-sent); a ghost; recognised and familiar; you are here; I am here; haunting; familiarity; known and unknown; knowing and unknowing; know and unknow; dress and undress; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; welcome and unwelcome; sleeping, walking, sleepwalking; dressing and undressing; rabbit dressed as dead baby; stillborn? (still born) binding and unbinding in red ribbon – head bound; head unbound (headlong) bound; unbound; skin cleaned with cut fruit; split apple caressing skin and removing colour (duty of care); lemon juice drizzled on skin, this colour cannot be removed, green stain (remnant); no more ghosts; dissipated into the night; gone from whence they came – audible apparition; wash feet with whisky; this stain will not be removed (residue); wound and unwound, bound and unbound, boundless, unboundaried, boundaried; all bound (bound)

columns – columns make up a body, a print of columns, an image which might make up a body; a body of columns (support)

DRAMAINVOLVINGAROPE

rebel rebel; rebel rebel; rebel
rebel.....
.....

two pieces of wood are clattered together – re-visiting the past – recent and long ago – your face is a mess; rebel rebel – you've torn your

dress; to untangle and to tangle; to tangle; to re-tangle; to untangle (tangled);

rebel, rebel – your face is a mess (you've come undone)

rebel rebel, red bull red bull, you've drunk too much; red bull red bull, you look pretty fucked; stress makes people smoke more; I don't smoke; smoking is an unhealthy habit – it is not a 'bad habit' – there are no bad habits; in fact, smoking is a pretty good one – it's habit forming fairly easily, in a compulsive way (addict)(add.); my habits are my own fucking business – I don't ask for yours; you don't need to ask for mine; a photograph is stapled to a piece of wood, these totems are amassing; screensaver – everyday life is a screensaver for when the real stuff begins; no projection – the projection has left with the ghosts; no ghosts, no projection; goodbye to the rebel; goodbye to the rebels; goodbye to the ghosts; (ghost);

knife; microphone; knife-edge; a trembling body – trembling with exertion; there was something I wanted to tell you; it was funny – but not anymore; covering yourself with boot polish will not help you to blend in socially;

the shape of things to come

Walker's Bitter

If you are short of ideas, a glass of Romanoff will stimulate your imagination

Lucky dice; furry dice – hang them in your windscreen; hang them from your washing line.....(hang them from your cock)(hang them from someone else's cock); it's all the fucking same to me;

Joules' Bitter

(bitter)

nailing photographs / postcards to the ceiling; a lull (hiatus)

equivalence between a head bound in string and a ball of string – if a head exists inside a ball of string then does a ball of string exist inside a head?

dead-rabbit; dead-rabbit wrapped in piss-soaked t-shirt (urine) and immersed in yellow liquid and saliva; placed in a bowl; wall that is not a wall; disappearing behind a wall that is not a wall; carrying totems; carrying charms; bearing and forbearance; winding and unwinding; binding and unbinding;

to crawl; to crawl and hold your head; pacing; pacing and carrying totems (charms); walking – Walker – walking – a walker; pacing and circumscribing the space; to sit and pause to reflect; to think; to decide on next moves; to consider the next action; to wait and to be unsure, but to wait, anyway, for the thing that might happen next; or might not – but something surely will; to get up and walk away – walker – a walker;

welcome; welcome and unwelcome; welcome to this space; leave when you will; leave and walk away; balance – all a question of balance and unbalance; finding a balance in this space; finding space in which to

balance; to present a dead rabbit in a golden liquid; wrapped in a piss-stained t-shirt (urine); to be wrapped in red ribbon – bound and unbound; a spring-link (link) a karabiner (link) a spring-hitch (link); click and click – open and close; punctuation (possibility|impossibility); that which is; that which is not; that which is this;

backwards; unravelling; backwards – re-visiting; backwards; (measured)

Marx; Marx; Marx; Marx; Mark's; Marx?

Marx English; Marx Jewish; Marx Victoria; Marx wolf; wolf; Wolfe; wolves; Marx wolves; keeping the Virginia from the door; your arm is tiring and your muscles are trembling; balance; it's all about balance; tethered and untethered a bone scrapes the floor as a red ribbon is paraded your arm is tired; and there are ghosts – Virginia's ghost; red ribbon and scraping bone; your arm is tired; a quiet ghost, a gentle haunting; bone on floor; your arm is tired; ghost; ghost; ghost; ghost; unravelling backwards; back in time; (ghost); back through time; (ghost); bone on floor; (ghost); your arm is tired; time; your arm is tired; ghost; ghost, ghost; (arm); ghost; your arm is tired; ghost; ghost, ghost; no more.

Writer Information

Steve Humble live and works in West Yorkshire. His practice encompasses the written word, photography, painting, drawing, sound, sculpture, installation and performance.

OUI Performance Event #1 took place on Saturday 13th November 2010 at Bar Lane Studios, York. More information is available at: <http://www.ouiperformance.org.uk/vn-02>