

MotionManual

Mon 19 - Thu 29 Apr & Mon 17 May - Fri 4 Jun 2010



photo © Lucy Barker

The Purpose of our Residency

The residency enabled MotionManual to create and rehearse our new double bill, *DanceMakers and Hyb*, and experiment with movement generation approaches and Forsythe Improvisation Technologies.

What were the most important things we learned from the residency?

During this residency we were not only producing work but also looking for new ways of collaborating artistically and developing our devising practice. This approach led us to search for appropriate modes of preparing and warming up together and create a generative method that suits the company's needs and interests.

Having a long rehearsal period enabled us to work on this aspect for several hours every morning, involving all collaborators as class leaders and inviting members

of the local dance community to join and feedback. We feel that we have developed a very exciting creative practise and learned a lot from each other's experience and expertise. Moreover we worked with a dramaturg who provided us with an outside perspective and observed and supported our processes. We were able to receive criticism and use it to improve our communication, artistic and collaboration skills.

How did we work, and what were our approaches?

During the residency we worked as a collaborative collective to devise and rehearse our new performance production. Our main focus was to create innovative work and refine our understanding of movement generation and manipulation. We also questioned our fixed roles within the creative process and interchanged them amongst dancers and choreographer. Especially *DanceMakers* required a different working method as the artistic director performs in the piece and one of the dancers takes on the rehearsal director role.

What did the residency mean to us within our development?

It is not specifically the residency that influences artists' development but the general collaboration with Yorkshire Dance including rehearsal space, mentoring, marketing support and performance opportunities. The relationship between the dance agency and artists not only supports the development of new choreographic work but also enriches the dance activity in the region and helps to put our joint projects on the cultural map of Yorkshire.

For MotionManual the residency formed the base of artistic creation and exposure during this first half of 2010 and feeds directly into our long-term engagement with Yorkshire Dance and the local and regional dance field. It enabled the collective to stage a well attended premiere and reach out to the community as well as the wider professional circuit in this country.

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