

Rachel Dean & Daliah Toure

March 2011



The Purpose of the Residency

To explore methods of making work. To choreograph a duet inspired by movement material created through improvisation in previous performances. To see where all our dance experiences so far, apart and together can take us.

The Approach

We had a very open approach, starting with no particular artistic aesthetic, but simply the desire to experiment with new ideas. Using DVD footage from a past 'Mathilde' performance and the desire to use text/voice, we set ourselves tasks that would slowly increase our pool of ideas. Eventually we narrowed these down to just a few select starting points as our intentions clarified and worked towards finding ways to develop them with

more focus.

Our activities included making and performing quick solos for each other, using a microphone, automatic continuous writing whilst watching each other dance, reading and being inspired by Jonathan Burrows' 'A Choreographer's Handbook', singing songs, hiding under a blanket and dancing to Michael Jackson.

The Most Important Things We Learned from the Residency

It was very liberating to surprise ourselves by going into a residency with not much of an idea of what the outcome should be. The approach that we had was to be guided by curiosity and intuition and to inject a lightness into the way in which we worked. It was extremely satisfying to rely on our

experience as artists and let ideas develop without the pressure of having to produce results. Our results were to plant seeds and let ideas, not normally given the chance to breath, come to the surface and hopefully develop further in the future.

Impact on the Overall Development of Career & Practice

Having a 'safe' space to experiment is very valuable to us. We had the chance to try out new ideas which we expect will feed into future collaborations and choreographies. We spent time discussing our own individual stances on choreographic aesthetics, the relationships between choreography and improvisation and articulated our thoughts on issues relating to our work.

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