

BLOOM!

Mon 4 - Fri 8 July 2011



The Purpose of the Residency

The purpose of our residency was to start research and development of BLOOM!'s new production **SuperHeroes** and to deepen our understanding of the subject by proposing our ideas to three groups of workshop participants (50+, 13-19 years and 8-12 years).

The Approach

We started our creative process with long discussions about the theme of 'superheroes', the starting point of our research; we spoke about its history, we tried to contextualise it within contemporary society and to understand the essence of our fascination towards the subject. We shared and selected a large number of choreographic ideas, scratching

some of them over five days. We used comic books and superheroes stereotypes as an inspiration to create still body positions. We played with different choreographic ideas: conveying narrative through still images, composing physical movement sequences by joining still pictures, juxtaposing abstract and narrative movement material, translating filmic devices such as slow motion and stop-frame into choreography; etc.

We thought carefully about what we wanted to achieve with the three research workshops, how we could offer the participants an insight into our choreographic process and at the same time understand their interest in the subject. We decided that the creative workshops would involve sourcing movement from comic books and from the participants' imagination, as well as playing with narrative and abstraction within the framework of choreography.

Learning

The workshops represented a great chance to understand how different age groups relate to the subject: we are now more aware that the theme of 'superheroes' is more present in the upbringing of males than of females, particularly for older generations. Many people have also pointed out that the

theme of 'violence' is central to most superhero stories and characters.

We now feel we are more able to connect the theme of 'superheroes' with more complex and universal issues: the need of power, the relationship between sexes, the relativity of the concepts of 'good' and 'bad' and the very human need to be saved.

Impact of Residency on overall development of career and practice

We believe the creative workshops represent an important step forward in BLOOM!'s intent to find a connection with different audiences and let the work be inspired by them. At the same time, the choreographic research during our time at Yorkshire Dance was very revealing, allowing us to 'scratch under the surface' of the subject and deepen our understanding of how we could develop the research over the few weeks to follow this residency.



www.bloomdancecollective.org

SuperHeroes Blog: superheroes.bloomdancecollective.org