

To everyone at Third Row Dance Company,

We would like to propose a project with the working title *Infinite Tango*. Our premise is to work with a short looped section of 'elevator' music as a continuous and uninterrupted frame: from here, we will explore the choreographic possibilities of working with the 'neutral' body-at-rest as a body which is endlessly tapping, shifting or swaying to an unchanging beat.

We are curious about the possibilities open to each individual performer within the group, confined by the common framing of the music. Rather than proposing a collective experience of commonality or togetherness, we are attracted to the image of the solo social dancer; the club full of individuals or those who re-use steps from partner dances by themselves. Slipping in and out of individual process and unison, the performers of Third Row would explore this situation through improvisations loosely bound by rules of mimicry, transformation and exaggeration. We hope to find a range of individual personalities, skills and interests across the company to take this work in unexpected directions. We would start the weekend with some initial questions: what are the possibilities for shifting or rupture within this seemingly rigid structure? What might be produced from a choreography which demands little skill or attention to perform? How might a choreographic rhythm be shaped when stillness is replaced with continuous motion?

This project would be collaboratively choreographed by Tempura Batter (Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes) and Samantha Pardes, drawing from and juxtaposing our diverse artistic backgrounds. We hope our collaboration will offer a fresh rhythm and boldness to the company: our working methods are playful and open, responsive to the energy and experiences of dancers training in diverse styles.

Tempura Batter is the collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall and Paul Hughes. Our work takes place across choreographic, performance and visual arts contexts. Drawing from a playful and critical approach to the stage, we consider meaning and meaninglessness through oblique gestures. This project will develop our enquiry into the ambiguity of 'easy' dances and their potential to create space for unconscious fidgeting and inattention. We are excited about the possibilities of working with a large cast to explore our long-term interests in seriality, cohesion and rebelliousness.

Samantha Pardes is a dance artist whose practice shifts between making, performing, improvising, collaborating and teaching. With a strong interest and curiosity in a performer/spectator encounter along with the uncertainties of a relational practice, she predominately makes live performance in a variety of contexts. Her choreographic work employs the anxieties, tensions, exposure, discomfort and vulnerability that surround the performance situation, often confronting the very notion of dancing, choreographic practice and presentation. This dance project will develop an ongoing enquiry around concepts like futility, ineffectiveness, limitation, unproductiveness and insufficiency, particularly within a rigidly framed space. It will be exciting to see what can emerge from the largely collective use of endurance, repetition and monotony as foundational concepts that develop the material.

Please find our CVs attached, and links to selected video below.

All the best,
Paul, Rohanne and Sam

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Tempura Batter (Paul Hughes and Rohanne Udall)

Empty Gestures: <https://vimeo.com/177359138>

Here or There: <https://vimeo.com/143470633>

Samantha Pardes

Walking any distance with hot food isn't going to be convenient:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/OB0wbmBwylAjrOVI6ZDdFYTU0X0U/view?usp=sharing>

(fragment of the work)

Reading Out Loud:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/OB0wbmBwylAjrVVlzem1LT2N1dGc/view?usp=sharing>