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In Case There's a Reason: The Theatre of Mistakes
30 June to 6 August 2017

IN CASE THERE'S A REASON



THE THEATRE OF MISTAKES

Artists' group The Theatre of Mistakes (1974-81) pioneered a structured performance art traversing architecture, choreography and poetry as well as visual art. They formed in London in the early 1970s from a series of open workshops at which instructional and games-based exercises were the focus. These came to inform *The Street* (1975), a performance with the residents and environment of Ascham Street in Kentish Town.

Fiona Templeton and Anthony Howell distilled the performance exercises into a publication, *Elements of Performance Art* (1976), arguably the first manifesto for performance art in the UK. A core group of six performers (Mickey Greenall, Glenys Johnson, Miranda Payne, Peter Stickland as well as Howell and Templeton) then agreed to produce contained and systematic works for a five-year duration. Later, 'mistakes' were explored through a series of trios, duets and solos and Julian Maynard Smith joined the core group.

The live element in this exhibition will commence on the opening night with a 'Free Session' by The Theatre of Mistakes, including early members, Lindsay Moran and Howard Tong. Throughout the exhibition, Anthony Howell will run performance workshops every afternoon, while each Friday and Saturday evening there will be performances of *Going* (1977). Directed by Fiona Templeton, a cast of five will play out mannerisms of departure in five tightly choreographed acts, whilst attempting to be each other.

The Theatre of Mistakes logged its working life, practice and processes in detail. The exhibition reveals this unique legacy of documentation and notation, and includes videos, photographs, a great variety of spatial and choreographic notations, as well as diary texts.

The exhibition is curated by Jason E. Bowman. For further booking information about *Going* and information about participation in the workshops, please see the *Events* listings on this page.

Exhibition supporters



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Selected texts

There's a Reason: A Case for the Theatre of Mistakes
by Jason E. Bowman

The Theatre of Mistakes: A Selective Chronology
by Jason E. Bowman

Going (1977)
by The Theatre of Mistakes

Going: A Partial Chronology
by Jason E. Bowman

Events

Some Reasons: A Panel Discussion with The Theatre of Mistakes

Performance with members of The Theatre of Mistakes

Exhibition tour with Jason E. Bowman

Going (1977)
30 June to 6 August 2017
Film recording

'Elements of Performance Art' open workshops with Anthony Howell
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, 2-5pm, 30 June to 4 August 2017

Performance: Free Session





