The Times of Performance

One of the concerns of Performance Studies, as it has developed at the University of Sydney, derives from an intuition of the liveness or performedness of performance. Thus the conference title: Being There.

*Presence* is a key concept in this approach. But presence is not just a ‘here’, but a ‘here-now’, for a duration. Primordially, presence is a temporal phenomenon. The becoming-present of that which presents.

**Performance is a time based medium.** To attend a performance, is, in a sense, to experience time passing. And the phenomenon described as presence can be more accurately described as the irrecuperable diachrony of performance, its rushing away, its resistance to synchronization and repeatability, which leaves, at best, a trace which betrays its having passed.

Further, to do justice to the event of performance, it is necessary to explicate it in its full temporality. And this has been happening, although perhaps without a conscious intention to do so, at Performance Studies at Sydney in a number of research trajectories.

Rehearsal Studies, Sociology of Performance, and Audience Studies, for instance, reveal performance as a complex web of pasts and futures which manifest in the concentrated span of the duration of the performance. These considerations indicate how the temporality of performance exceeds, overflows and escapes the present.

**This call for papers seeks submissions on any aspect of performance and time.**

- Durational or time-based performance.
- The *Before* and *After* of performance.
- Historical effects on performance.
- The phenomenon of Presence.
- Performance as a fundamentally temporal medium.
- The specific temporal structure of performances.
- Rhythms of and in performance.
- Being in the moment.
- Any other consideration of temporality and performance.

If you wish to contribute to, or be involved with ‘The Times of Performance”, please contact Stuart Grant. The format of the panel will emerge from the degree of interest this call provokes.

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