

## The Weave

a shinkansen and body>data>space interdisciplinary co-creation methodology, co-created 1992–1996

**The Weave** is an interdisciplinary co-creation process developed across a series of pioneer dance-tech labs and residencies, European Choreographic Forums, held annual between 1992–96 at the International Dartington Summer School as part of an EU project *The Butterfly Effect Network*. This project involving over 200 choreographers, digital, audio, visual and sensor artists, producers and dramaturges from 6 countries. The evolution of the Weave methodology was led by Ghislaine Boddington (Creative Director, shinkansen / body>data>space) and was developed collaboratively between all the partners and participants, upgraded and improved year on year until it was signed off as a positive working method in 1996. Since this time The Weave has been used by numerous of artists and creatives for co-creation projects of an interdisciplinary nature.

- *The original version of The Weave can be found on:*  
[http://www.rescen.net/Ghislaine\\_Boddington/theweave/index.html](http://www.rescen.net/Ghislaine_Boddington/theweave/index.html)
- *See also The Weave, a written essay by Ghislaine Boddington describing the process of 'process directing' co-creation outputs with interdisciplinary groups:*  
[http://www.rescen.net/Ghislaine\\_Boddington/theweave/item1.html#.W45H69gzq34](http://www.rescen.net/Ghislaine_Boddington/theweave/item1.html#.W45H69gzq34)

## The Weave

The Weave proposes ways in which those from diverse backgrounds can collaborate as equals in the making of creative work. It is a methodology of interauthorship which challenges many notions of the creative as sole author by enabling a deep co-creation process of relativity and integration between three key components:

- **the body** – public / participant / user / performer / partners;
- **the technologies** – today's tools of virtually/physical reflection;
- **the content** - the theme / situation in exploration.

**The imperative is to place the living body and human presence at the centre of these collaborative interactions and to weave / plait the three strands simultaneously and evenly, one over the other, keeping all equally in the flow, creating a robust co-woven output.**

**The Weave enables the participants to envision the process and progression of a project. The image acknowledges the various strands that make up the total: forming a plait that retains the visible identity of each contributor, whilst also forming a unity stronger than any single thread.**

## Group Process Brief

*This can be shared with all participants prior to the project and discussed on first day.*

The aims and themes of this project will be explored through **The Weave – a deep group collaboration process.**

As invited participants you come from diverse cultural and skills backgrounds and bring with you a range of social, political and aesthetics experiences. We look for **good debate through this diversity** and aim to enable the use of this **opportunity as a chance to learn about other ways of thinking and being in the world today.**

The project will be **flexibly evolved** – a secure structure is in place which can enable a **fluid mix of practice and debate** to be developed by project facilitators (and potentially also supported by coaches, mentors, etc. as required in the project).

**Discussion and debate** are a very important aspects of this methodology. We need to learn about each other's work and social cultures and ideas and evolve threaded discussions on the themes / situations in the project to carry through into our creative and practical work.

This exchange therefore relies on the **pooling of skills and ideas.** It needs to be **entered with an open mind** and with the intention of becoming fully involved in the brief.

All participants, including the facilitator, will work together as a whole and you will, at certain times, work in smaller groups to explore particular issues/evolutions.

There will be **constant sharing and exchange**, with the aim being to keep the **fluid creative process evolving.** **So please do not attend to do research for your next piece or to direct the whole. As this is a project into the processes of interauthorship.**

**The outcome aim is the creation as a group of fragments of the work-in-progress and authorship will be group based** – inter-authorship – with clear crediting of specialist skills.

**The Group Process** is based on the following collaboration practice:

- all participants will be skilled in a specific area, with additional secondary skills (to aid the development of a multi-skilled team);
- all participants will be creatives;
- skills specialisation will be practiced within collective working methodologies;
- respect of experience and respect of topicality/freshness will be given equal weighting;
- co-authorship will be key;
- all will learn and teach equally;
- all in together to cover day-to-day practicalities.

**The Creation Processes** are based in:

- pooling of ideas;
- continuous weaving / plaiting of content and form development - performance, body and technology;
- chains of interaction between participants – deep collaboration;
- debate and discussion threaded throughout the practice, captured by scribes and video artists for onwards sharing.

The project will be **experiential** on all levels:

- sharp learning curve for all involved;
- intensive and challenging;
- testing of the individual within group/collaborative processes;
- brilliant buzzy outcomes and special professional development

**The Process Direction** team will lead the group through the inter-authorship processes. The final say, if necessary, will lie with the process directors of the project.

## Participants Profile

*The below can be adjusted to suit the project aims.*

- You will be a (dance / digital technologist / design) professional with an obsessive interest in the evolution of live-ness, the future of the human body and performative forms.
- You will have concerns about the present state of theatre, regarding the true interdisciplinary nature of collaboration, the user experience and its evolution into wider distribution channels.
- You will have concerns about widening access to live performance / interaction experiences, through content/form, for more participatory and diverse public involvement.
- You will be interested in the potentials of the hybrid processes of intercultural / technological evolution of performance and the importance of this in relationship to collective human understanding and knowledge advancement.
- You will be a person who enjoys and buzzes in collaborative group projects, able to give and receive readily, open about pooling/sharing ideas and credit.
- You will have a penache for multi-skilling and be ready to use many and develop new skills.
- You will be articulate and hungry for good critical debate and discussion.
- Your spirit of engagement will be based in the intent of positive group outcomes