

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
- *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

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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