



Michael Jahoda

Winter Letter 2019

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Hip Hip Hurray!!

In April of this year I had a long over due hip replacement surgery - my second. 2 hours after this operation I was taking short pain-free walks, 36 hours later I was released into the good and kindly care of friends, 12 weeks later I was deemed fully healed, and now nine months later I am more agile and pain free than I have been in 20 years. The improvement has exceeded all of my expectations. I am eagerly looking forward to moving more, dancing more, sweating more, teaching more, creating new work, and taking part in new productions as a dancer and a performer in the coming year.

Hootschroop

I am currently a member of Hootschroop, an edgy new music & sound ensemble (aka band) comprised of Robbert van Hulzen (percussion), Dirk Bruisma (percussion), and myself (voice/movement). Hootschroop has a unique timbre extracted from a whacky set of percussive instruments wrought by the hands of Dirk Bruisma from a heap of useless scrap metal. In July we created an experimental mini-opera for the *Warp's May Days* weekend at the Kunst Kapel, and followed with a performance in the *Trashless Festival* in Amsterdam Noord. We are currently developing new material, and collaborating with the Phillip Project on Episode 18 - the Life and Death of Phillip Newhouse.

Austin Texas Residency / Toni Bravo

I returned to Austin, Texas this summer for my yearly artist-in-residency with *Diverse Space Dance Company*. In addition to conducting my own creative research, I taught classes and created a new work for the company. Toni Bravo, the director of the company, is a specialist in the field of "dance in education", having developed a method for integrating dance into the public education system and a program for teaching academic subjects with movement titled "Leaps and No Bounds". Toni has been giving workshops and seminars in NL, Ireland, and the Czech Republic the past few years, and we are currently working to create long term partnerships with institutions in NL so Toni can share her expertise in the fields of dance, education and "dance in education".

LeineRoebana

I have had the pleasure to work and collaborate with LeineRoebana on a number of performance, teaching and research projects this year.

We recently completed a very successful and well received Dutch tour of LeineRoebana's latest creation "Sweet Demon" which premiered 12 October, 2018 at the Chassé Theater in Breda. I was pleased to be assistant and rehearsal director throughout the process, and look forward to more performances taking place next season.

I am currently collaborating with LeineRoebana on a long-term Didactic and Creative Research Project. The varied aims of this research project are to assess the current state of the modern dance training training in NL, examine the work and working method(s) of LeineRoebana, develop a new and dynamic modern dance training method (be it a class structure or workshop structures) based on their work and working method(s), and create a new solo work, in collaboration with LeineRoebana, based on the results of the research. In January 2018, Andrea Leine and I taught our preliminary round of classes in the new training method for the 3rd year Modern Dance Theater students at the AHK. LeineRoebana also crated a new choreography for the students which I assisted and was presented in the mid-year performance. In December Andrea and I returned the AHK for a short, 3 day intensive with the 1st year Modern Dance Theater students, and made our next step in defining and refining the new training approach, structure and exercise/class material. We are looking forward to the next phases of our research process which will include a series of academy workshops, as well as a series of filmed interviews with past and current dancers from LeineRoebana.

Conny Janssen Danst

In July of this year, my 6 years as an assistant, rehearsal director, mentor and then special projects coordinator at Conny Janssen Danst came to a close. I am currently finalising the preliminary phase of a comprehensive archive of the company's 25 years of work which we hope will be catalogued and accessible to the public when the company relocates to their new home in the Fenixloods next year.

BAU

I continue to be a core member of BAU, an agency and platform for the independent dance and performance sector in Amsterdam. BAU recently received a 2 year structural grant from the Amsterdam Cultural Funds (AFK) which will enable us to realise more of our aims and ambitions in support of the independent makers of Amsterdam.

the Phillip Project

Episode 18 - The Life and Death of Phillip Newhouse



www.phillipproject.com

Episode 18 - the Life and Death of Phillip Newhouse

Life *"listening, looking, smelling, tasting, feeling"*

Death *"ice cold, bright white and crystal clear"*

Heaven *"an eternal discotheque trapped in perpetual springtime"*

Phillip's endless quest to define and defend his own sense of freedom will come to a fitting close in this, the final chapter in the Phillip Series. In **Episode 18 - the Life and Death of Phillip Newhouse**, Phillip revisits and reinvents highlights from his zany madcap life, his gruesome death and his colourful and exuberant time in Heaven. This final chapter comes to life with dance, spoken work, live music, image and light in a compact multimedia performance-installation in 3 acts; Life, Death and Heaven.

Come Together Festival 25 January 2018

The first work-in-progress (excerpted) performance of Episode 18 will take place in the **Come Together Festival at Frascati Theater on 25 January 2018** in Amsterdam. This excerpt is being created in collaboration with Hoopschroot colleagues and percussionists Robbert van Hulzen and Dirk Bruisma.

the Phillip Project

the Phillip Project is a multimedia artistic collaboration project based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

In August 2001 choreographer Michael Jahoda and Finnish video artist Pasi Granqvist embarked on an unruly and unfunded research project in search of a new form of artistic expression that could seamlessly fuse the visual arts and the performing arts and erase the boundary between the performer and the public. They focused their research on questions of freedom and collaboration, and in the first phase of their research they created

Since that time the Phillip Project has created 17 unique, site-specific Episodes. Each Episode is created by a select group of collaborators and focuses on a specific aspect of Phillip's endless quest to define and defend his own sense of freedom, and redefine his life, death and resurrection. The Episodes have ranged from a simple film installation, to an intimate site-specific film and sound installation, to a one-hour performance installation, to a club lounge, to a dance party, to a five-hour performance event, to a solo mono-media performance, to an acoustic performance-installation event, to "a proper" stage performance

Phillip

Phillip is the leitmotif of the Phillip Project. He is a multifaceted fictitious character – part everyday man / part super hero – who comes to life in a variety of media forms in a series of multi-media Episodes that document his endless quest to find the answer to the big question: "What is freedom"?