

preview extract

**Dance performance in cyberspace
- transfer and transformation**

A thesis submitted to Middlesex University in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Paula Gouveia Varanda (MA)

School of Media and Performing Arts

Middlesex University

March 2015

Abstract

The aim of this research undertaking is to understand the potential development of dance performance in the context of cyberculture, by examining the way practitioners use new media to create artworks that include audience participation, and by endeavouring in their theorization. With specific reference to cyberspace as a concept of electronic, networked and navigable space, the enquiry traces the connections such practices have with conventions of the medium of dance, which operate in its widely known condition as a live performing art. But acknowledgement that new media and new contexts of production and reception inform the characteristics of these artworks and their discursive articulation, in terms of the way people and digital technologies interact in contemporary culture, is a major principle to their analysis and evaluation.

This qualitative research is based on case-study design as a means of finding pragmatic evidence in particulars, to illustrate abstract concepts, technological processes and aesthetic values that are underway in a new area of knowledge. The field where this research operates within is located by a mapping of published literature that informs a theoretical interdisciplinary framework, which contextualizes the interpretation of artworks. The selected case studies have been subject to a process of systematic and detailed analysis, entailed with a model devised for the purpose of this enquiry.

From this undertaking it can be claimed that while an extensive array of technologies, media and interactive models is available in this field, the artists pursue a commitment to demonstrate their worth for specifically developing (new media) dance performance, and for dance performance to articulate technological and critical issues for cyberculture studies. The results of this enquiry also contribute to conceptual understanding of what dance can be, today, in the light of technological changes.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express immense gratitude and the deepest respect to Professor Susan Melrose who had to taken the role of my Director of Studies unexpectedly, halfway through my studies. She has assumed such responsibility with encouraging interest, wit argument, and warm support. While pushing me sometimes to the limit to develop my skills as a researcher, she has always reassured me that I could bring my speculative project to an end with the pragmatic results that I aimed for.

Likely, Dr. Maria José Fazenda from Escola Superior de Dança has assumed a supervision role in Portugal, which was mandatory to receive an indispensable grant for my studies from Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia. I am indebted for her perceptive and supportive feedback, her confidence in my capacities, and asserting the interest of this study for our dance community.

My gratitude also expresses to Professor Stephen Boyd Davies, my first Director of Studies (until 2011), who stimulated my pursuing this new subject with substantial help through registration and the subsequent steps to structure the project.

Professor Christopher Bannerman (until 2011) and Dr. Ralph Nuhn (from 2011 to 2013) have also contributed with additional but yet very valuable insight in the role of second supervisors and for that I am grateful to them.

My sincere acknowledgements are also due to Ghislaine Boddington, with whom I assessed this project informally from an early phase, for her specialist and inspiring insight about the fitting of this kind of practice in the wider perspective of social and cultural development with digital technology and virtual environments.

I would also like to thank Norbert Corsino, Joseph Hyde and Didier Mulleras, the artists representing the case studies - for their invaluable interviews and documentation that they provided and authorized me to use in conference presentations and in the thesis.

My gratitude is also due to thank Filipe Luz and José Maria Dinis for permission and assistance to use the motion capture system in MOVLAB – Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa; and Dominique Rivoal and John Cox from Middlesex University for the access and technical assistance to use the microsoft kinet camera system.

This project was substantially funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (2010-2014) had fees and travelling financial coverage from Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (2008-2009), and was awarded small grants from Middlesex University to travel for case-study field work (July 2010) and conference participation (April 2014). To the institutions, the juries and the staff involved in these applications, I owe sincere thanks.

Thank you, heartedly, to my family, for the patience, for the love, and for the precious help with logistics: my daughter Sofia, my husband Anthony, my mother Helena, my father Fernando, my aunt Manuela, and my cousin Joana.

Finally, my colleagues Kristina Sommerlade, Marianne Markowsky and Stephan Jurgens, were invaluable peers to discuss problems and ideas, and I am also grateful to them.

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Appendix section

Appendix 1

Appendix to Chapter 5 / case 1

96 details - Cie. Mulleras

Interview with Didier Mulleras and Paula Varanda, July 2010
Information provided in the company's website
Press articles cited in the thesis

Appendix 2

Appendix to Chapter 6 / case 2

Soi Moi – n+n corsino

Interview with Norbert Corsino and Paula Varanda, July 2010
Information provided in the company's website
Press articles cited in the thesis

Appendix 3

Appendix to Chapter 7 / case 3

Me & My Shadow – Joseph Hyde

Interview with Joseph Hyde and Paula Varanda, August 2013
Interview with Ghislaine Boddington and Paula Varanda, August 2013
Information provided in the websites and process blog
Press articles cited in the thesis

Appendix 4

Conferences attended throughout the research and paper abstracts