

The University of Chichester, Kingston University, University of Roehampton, and Royal Holloway University of London in collaboration with the Society for Dance Research present

POP MOVES

Popular Dance: Curating, Collecting, Reflecting

Saturday, 24th October 2015

University of Roehampton, Department of Dance

CALL FOR PAPERS

The PoP [Performances of the Popular] Moves committee is now inviting submissions for the 2015 conference, "Popular Dance: Curating, Collecting, Reflecting."

'To curate' comes from the Latin word *curare*: to take care of. *Curatores* in Ancient Rome were the caretakers of the public works of the city such as bathhouses, sewers and aqueducts. In the Middle Ages, a *curatus* was a priest who took care of the souls of the parish and it was only in the eighteenth century that the word *curator* began to be used for someone who took care of a museum's collection (Hans Ulrich Obrist, chief curator at Serpentine Gallery). We begin with this historical anecdote to ask how might we take care of popular dance?

Dance inside a museum is a recent phenomenon (Boris Charmatz *Musée de la danse* at the Tate in May 2015 as the most recent example). Although an exciting space for the exhibition of dance, the museum often maintains the high/low art hierarchy as evidenced by the type of dances/dancing programmed within it. In light of these recent events, what might popular dance do in/out of such spaces of collection?

The act of reflecting takes on numerous forms within popular dance, including embodied fan responses of music video choreography, performances of tribute and homage, and kinaesthetic reflections of emerging trends, cultures, histories and global relationships. These reflections in turn are situated in the politics of appropriation and authenticity, raising questions of who engages in practices of reflection, and what are the repercussions/possibilities of these reflections?

The terms 'curating' 'collecting' and 'reflecting' can be conceived of broadly to include the relocation of popular dance to sites such as archives (textual, embodied, digital), the digital realm, screens, theatres, dance competitions or dance festivals. The PoP Moves committee are interested in how scholars, artists and/or artist-scholars think through these terms in relationship to the methodologies they engage in to do their practice, research or practice-as-research.

Some more specific questions to consider include:

What does the term 'curation' offer to the circulations of popular dance globally?

What are the macro (or micro) spaces for the curation and collection of popular dance? How does power circulate or function within these spaces?

What are the aesthetic, economic, political and/or historical stakes in curating and/or collecting popular dance?

What genealogies of curating, collecting and reflecting exist within popular dance?

Who are we curating, collecting and reflecting for? Why? Should we? What are the ethics involved in the act of curating and/or collecting popular dance practices?

How to apply

Please send the following information by 15 July 2015 via e-mail to Julia.noyce@roehampton.ac.uk

- Document One: Title, Abstract, and Bibliography (see Proposals below)
- Document Two: Title, Presenter's Name, Affiliated Institution, Email Address, space and time requirements (if relevant) and AVS needs (see Technical Requirements and Resources below)

Proposals

- An abstract of 300 words is required, outlining the research area and key issues within a clearly articulated methodology
- An indicative bibliography of 4-5 key texts should be included
- The name of the speaker should not appear in document one, as the abstracts will be blind reviewed. Please include the speaker's name in document two only

Technical Requirements and Resources

- Presentations may take the form of a paper, lecture-demonstration or workshop
- Paper presentations should be 20 minutes in length
- Lecture-demonstrations and workshops can be 45 or 60 minutes in length
- If speakers intend to present a lecture-demonstration or workshop, please indicate what your time and space requirements might be for this
- Please identify any AVS equipment that you might need for the presentation: DVD playback, data projector, or internet access, for example

Committee Members: Dr Melissa Blanco Borelli, Professor Theresa Buckland, Dr Ann R. David, Dr Jo Hall, Celena Monteiro, Dr Clare Parfitt-Brown, Laura Robinson

Conference Location: Department of Dance, University of Roehampton, Roehampton Lane, London, SW15 5PJ

Conference website: <http://popmoves.com/archive/october-2015-conference/>