

He died on Thursday 17 March 2005 at 5.20pm in the ambulance. Heart attack. I took the call at work. His work, my work. I joined him in a curtained booth in A&E, Leicester Royal Infirmary. I was alone. I cupped my hand behind the back of his neck and between his shoulder blades. He was still warm. I left. Broken.

The affair, a married male friend, began 8 November 2005 and ended 18 September 2007.

This book notates the date of each text message, telephone call, journey and assignation. A sparse document concealing sex, disillusion, grief, obsession and loneliness.

A dead time.

I can never return
I can invite them, the living archive
I can write the book
I can show the film
I can play the sound
I can produce the evidence
I can bring the dolls house
I can hang the clothes
I can display the dead puppets
I can never return

The Book of Dead Time

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31 March 2023
Backlit - Main Gallery and Project Room

The Living Archive

Ellen Angus b.19th April 1986 Artist

Ellen is a painter and a performance artist who creates assemblages that she moves through. Absurdity, ritual, humour and trickery are part of a transformative potential.

Gareth Brierley b.7th March 1971 Actor, writer, director, filmmaker

Emilyn Claid b. 15th December 1949 Performer, choreographer

Queer artist in her 8th decade, Emilyn's practice shifts between performing, making, writing, and artistic collaboration within the world of dance and live art, alongside working as a Gestalt psychotherapist. She recently published FALLING through dance and life (Bloomsbury 2021) and is currently touring a solo show, 'emilyn claid UNTITLED'. @emilynclaid.

Padraig Condron b.13th July 1995 Artist and curator

Pádraig is an artist working in performance, sound, textile and collaboration. As a director of arts organisation Gasleak Mountain he curates exhibitions, events, workshops and parties. Among all of this his interests lie in queerness, conformity, social performance and self-created communities.

Siobhan Davies b. 8th September 1950 Dancer, choreographer, film maker, artistic director.

Each day I uncover more about what dance can do and be both in stillness and in movement. I love to be close up to dance and see into its complexities as well look beyond it and touch on the histories of movement embedded in each of us and in our environments, showing the physical fluidity and depth of movement between all things. I have been very lucky to be a dancer.

Jayne Devlin b. 6th January 1968 Deep[ly] Curious[ly] Sensitive

I feel it is of profound importance to notice, and take great pleasure, in Moments of Resurgence...to grasp opportunities to remain Visible. Moments that leave us feeling validated, empowered, and rejuvenated. My passions lie within exploring the relationship between an active engagement in creative arts and culture, and the resultant enhanced sense of wellbeing and interconnectedness between individuals

Sally Doughty b. 24 May 1967 Improviser, performer, lecturer, researcher, manager.

I try to find a balance, even if it's lop sided, between the different aspects of my work. The teaching is wonderful but I don't do that much anymore, the same goes for research and my professional practice. The admin and paperwork is less wonderful and there's more of that than anything else.

Paul Douglas Smith b. 29th January 1956 Senior Instructor of Aikido /Japanese Swordsmanship

Paul is a Dance Artist/Choreographer/Director (Retired) He studied at London Contemporary Dance School 1977-79. Performed with London Contemporary Dance Theatre, Rambert Dance Company and Siobhan Davies Dance. Director/ Choreographer of Small Bones Dance Company. Founder/Director of Movingeast 1998-2015. Paul is Director of Tetsushinkan Dojo, London, where he teaches Aikido and the Japanese swordsmanship of Kashima Shin Ryu.

Tara Fatehi- Irani b. 6 July 1987 artist, performer, writer

Tara Fatehi creates performances, writing, movement, video and voice engaging with ambiguity, playfulness, mistranslation, disjunction and unfinishedness. Some of her ongoing projects are Mishandled Archive, dispersing 365 fragments of family documents through dance and photography; Always Already, an 8-hour duet performance with Karen Christopher; From the Lips to the Moon, an unusual music and poetry night with Pouya Ehsaei.

Nigel Hinds, b. 23rd February 1955 Arts consultant and volunteer

Nigel Hinds is a leading arts professional with particular skills in developing organisations, producing artistic programmes, facilitating groups, festival and venue management. He has over 30 years working as senior executive for organisations including Phoenix Arts Leicester, Sadler's Wells, The Place and 14-18 NOW.

David Hughes b 30th April 1982 Performing Arts technician and Digital Performance Artist

David Hughes A Scottish born, English reared, humorous and loving father, son and husband. An extremist, a cynic, a skeptic and a politically socialist Dyspraxic Vegan. A Virtual PhD student, a thespian poet, a digital liminal technologist.

Judi Hughes b. 8th June 1954 Arts Manager

Judi Hughes, Arts Manager with a special interest in dance. From programming and tour management to finance and fundraising. Leicester, Treorchy and now retired to a small village in Wales. Currently volunteering to reopen Lido Brynaman.

Lisa Jacques b. 12th November 1970

Lisa Jacques is the Learning Programme Manager at Nottingham Contemporary, managing the Schools of Tomorrow and Families programmes, and most recently collaborated and co-curated with Assemble on the exhibition, Assemble + Schools of Tomorrow: The Place We Imagine. She has 15 years' experience in Further and Higher Education together with 15 years in Gallery and Museums Learning.

Sarah Jassal b. 21st June 1977 Mother, peer supporter, dance professional

Juggling life as a mum of 3 and a dog, breastfeeding peer supporter, arts organisation executive and school governor.

Paul Kindersley b. 1 July 1985 Artist, drawer, filmmaker and alien

Dak Mashava b. 12th October 1990 Dance Artist

I breathe. I live. I exist. I move. I'm alive. I've always been a curious mover. Self taught then formal training, London School of Contemporary Dance. A stage here and a screen there. Still going and still learning.

Alonso Mendoza-Moreno b. 6th October 1963. Musician

I have taught percussion through all levels of the Education System in the UK, from primary school to postgraduate level, at five universities and provide online teaching to students in the USA, Switzerland, Scotland and Mexico.

John Meredith b. 6th July 1973. Music and then some

Raised on a diet of New Order, drum machines and The Smiths John's life's been surrounded by and led by music. Steered into education, he's spent the last thirty years maintaining a career as an educator and as a freelance music industry professional: specifically as a songwriter, composer for media, mixer and producer and combines industry and education to shape tomorrow's graduates as Head of Undergraduate Music and Events at Confetti, Nottingham

Paul Paschal b.19 July 1991 Artist and writer

Paul Paschal is an artist and writer living in Nottingham, UK. The majority of his artistic work (performances, exhibitions, curatorial projects, etc.) is undertaken in collaboration with Rohanne Udall, currently under the name Cha cha cha cha. His current interests include: bookmaking, demons, hosting, institutional investments, intimacy, moral rhetoric, note-taking, poetry and overcare. He tries his best, he really does.

Sue Porter b. 15th March 1959 Film and Media Lecturer

Most of my adult life has been involved with film education and exhibition in its many forms. A fascination with all aspects of film culture and audiences, from Disney through to early cinema, has led to co-organising over 20 British Silent Film festivals, and a career in teaching film at university. Research interests include film archives and film heritage.

Marcia Porto b. 11th August 1964 Artist and Educator

Through drawing, painting, performance and installation Marcia creates nonlinear narratives impregnated with references. A recurrent theme is the presence of a group of nomadic women, simultaneously self-referential, essentially foreign. Such processes have buried the diversity of women's lives and culture. In my projects I begin each series by listening to women, their unique expression of experiences relating to their actions as social force.

Geoff Rowe b. 9 November 1971 A funny guy

Geoff was part of a student group, studying at what was called Leicester Polytechnic, who in 1993 set up Leicester Comedy Festival. The first festival happened in February 1994 and the student project has got out of hand with the festival continuing each year and celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2023.

Dr Miffy Ryan b. 29th December 1980 Performance Artist, Mother and Educator

I work on the periphery with the hard to reach, using performance as a catalyst to break down social and cultural barriers. I facilitate empowerment and engagement through live art practice. I work collaboratively and inter generationally with a methodology of improvisation as a means to more deeply understand others and also myself.

Caroline Sharman-Mendoza b.15th October 1957

Stage Director

I am a director of theatre, opera and pantomimes who has worked across the UK, in Syria, Greece and Mexico (where I met Alonso) and was Artistic Director/CEO of Theatre Chipping Norton and New Theatre Royal Portsmouth. Currently I am enjoying being the Creative Director of Culture Spark and Co-director of Article 12 Arts for whom I am 'writing' my first performance piece.

Peter Shenton b. 14th December 1967 One half of Performance Company New Art Club.

Pete Shenton is co-artistic director of Performance Company New Art Club. He is Resident Writer and Director with Unanima Theatre and Programme Leader for MA Choreography at DMU. His work has appeared in theatre, comedy and dance festivals in the UK and around the world since the early 2000s and has been translated into French and Mandarin.

Kuldip Singh-Barmi b.1968 performer, mischief-maker, pracademic

Senior Lecturer, Falmouth University. Coastal vibes, Leicester roots. Inspired by multi-modal performance collaborations, spontaneity, body-led research and new movement innovations. Motivated by students, sound/music collaborations, play. Dance thrill-seeker: always up for it.

Julie Diane Smith b.14th January 1969 Secret Helper

Dance loving, family orientated, loyal friend, dog owner that likes the odd Gin!

Dr Sue Smith b.1971 Movement socialist, agitator, scholar Course Leader, Falmouth University.

Chair (chaise longue) of People Dancing. Grown in Leicester. Easily excitable, incite-able and delight-able. Inspired by the joy of dancing, the dynamics of touch and curious people, places and things. Motivated by dance democracy, new dancing communities and perimenopausal fury.

Helen Stirland b. 27th February 1973 Choreographer

Helen is a choreographer and develops dance programmes within arts, education, NHS and corporate organisations and is the Lead Artist for People Dancing's Live Well and Dance Parkinson's programme Leicestershire. BedDances commissioned by the Arts and Heritage University Hospitals Leicester is a programme of creative movement aimed at supporting clinical staff to encourage patient mobility/reconditioning ahead of discharge. BedDances is being piloted in collaboration with NHS staff and the Physiotherapy team within the acute geriatric units, rehabilitation wards and elective orthopaedic patients across 3 Leicestershire hospitals.

Lucy Suggate b. 24th March moving-dancing- artist

The only consistent and relevant thing I can articulate right now is my adoration or possible addiction to moving-dancing my body, consistently turning up/tuning into (movement) practice . Everything else..... turgid.

Hugo Worthy, 30 April 1976, Curator of Art, Design and Performance

I deliver the art and performance programmes for Leicester Gallery at De Montfort University. Since arriving in Leicester I have been privileged to work with some of the most exciting artists, designers and choreographers practising today, from Hetain Patel to Monster Chetwynd, and develop exhibitions of some of the worlds best known artists including Gerhard Richter and Georg Baselitz. This experience has led me to a sustained interest performance as a mode of practice in the visual arts, exploring how it can be brought into public collections and how performative work can reach out beyond the white walls of the gallery to draw in new audiences. My beautiful wife, Lisa Jacques also numbers amongst the exhibits here.

Ian Wright/Kavi Mitra /Poet Friend/ b. 11th June 1964 Poet/ Student in Meditation/ Faith based work

As a poet I write the words that are given to me. It took me a long time to accept this gift but it is like sitting at a wellspring and the words come. Student in Meditation - Sitting and watching the mind and holding it gently and not too seriously.

Nenagh Watson b. 24th November 1958 Puppeteer

Over 40 years of creating and promoting puppetry 'challenging in both form and content' as an art form for an adult audience...touching a nerve and glimpsing behind the veil...life and death are one within puppet theatre.

The Company

Sue Allen, Julie Barnes, Daphne Bone, Julie Boott, Anne Coles, Sue Gregory, Vanda Hammond, Helen Johnson, Sharan Jones, Ann Sheldon, Penny Shields, Steve Stickley, Theo Stickley, Eleanor Tweedle, Tanny Westrik

Production

Technical	Craig Humpston, Backlit Gallery
The Book	Jonathan Casciano, Beam Editions
The Film	Freddy Griffiths editor Blue Firth designer
The Sound	John Meredith
The Dead Puppets	Nenagh Watson
The Signs	Blue Firth
The Programme	Blue Firth

Thanks to Matt Chesney Director, Backlit Gallery
Sharon Scaniglia and Hannah Stoddart, ArtSpeak

