DAVIDA HEWLETT

Davida Hewlett/Casey Raymond

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Editorial articles:
PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS + ART VIDEO PROJECT + HOW TO SCORE IN CANTON

DAVIDA HEWLETT [CARDIFF]

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
This is an opportunity for inclusive, creative expression and an attempt to consider how we can make this more a part of our daily lives. For several years I have been working with the idea of ‘creating conditions’ as a form situated between art practice and teaching, and a potential space for social change.

There will be Participatory Workshops open to those across the community aged 5 – 100+ which I will lead with local dancers, artists and film-makers. The workshops provide an opportunity to share the process-based methodologies of the pioneering American artist and pedagogue Anna Halprin and her late husband, landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. Some of the workshops will involve generating material for the Art Video Project made with my neighbours, something like a Super Gran for Canton, where we have fun putting things right in our community, using home-made special effects, and
through collectively creating surreal and liberating scenarios. This will be screened on the last day of the festival. The historical and theoretical background of the project will be presented in *How to Score in Canton*, a performance lecture, including works-in-progress and recent conversations with Anna Halprin.

Davida Hewlett is an artist/educator living and working in Wales. Her interdisciplinary work has been presented widely at leading venues and galleries throughout the UK and internationally. Davida’s projects are often humorous, made in collaboration with others, and range from touring site-specific pop songs, full scale musical extravaganzas, and participatory events to artist survival manuals, talking books, home alone installations and low-fi videos. She also led the Introduction to Performance Art course at Chapter Arts Centre, and is an Associate Tutor at Cardiff School of Art and Design.
Image courtesy Anna Halprin
Participatory Workshops / Art Video Project / Canton CanDo

As part of an artist’s residency during the International Performance Festival Cardiff, Davida Hewlett will be leading experimental workshops and activities that provide opportunities for collective creativity and participation.

There are lots of ways you can TAKE PART:
1) CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP
2) NEIGHBOURHOOD WALK SCORE + WORKSHOP
3) ARTIST VIDEO PROJECT
4) CANTON CANDO

Here are the details of what each activity will involve:

1) CHILDREN’S WORKSHOP (for ages 6-11)
   led by Davida Hewlett & Miranda Knight
   with musical accompaniment from Bud Harper and Jody Bell
   Sat May 31st 10:00 – 2:30 pm
   Chapter Arts Centre and Thompsons Park
   +
   Sat June 7th 10:00 – 12:00 pm
   Chapter Arts Centre

‘We believe that one of the most enriching spiritual forces in the foundations of childhood is the discovery of the creative process’ – Anna Halprin

Specifically for the International Performance Festival Cardiff, Davida Hewlett and Miranda Knight are leading children’s creative movement workshops for children aged 6-11. Developed from the notes and teaching of pioneering American choreographer and teacher Anna Halprin who led the Marin County Children’s Dance Co-op for eighteen years, this two-part workshop focuses on letting children move naturally and instinctively instead of through received images which they project out again. This is not a taught dance class to learn skills or dance routines, but a space to provide “an atmosphere in
which movement can become another vehicle upon which children’s imaginations can exercise freedom” (Anna Halprin). The workshop is closely connected with play and about developing spatial and body awareness, in order that children can sense and experience their environment more richly, and to develop the resources to respond creatively.

INFORMATION:
It is preferable and more beneficial that children can attend both workshops. Please bring a healthy lunch on Sat May 31st and snack on Sat June 7th. Please bring clothes you are comfortable to move in and clothes for the park on Sat May 31st including wet weathers in case it rains. On Sat May 31st we will meet at Thompsons Park at 10:00 am. For the safety of the children please meet us at the park and walk the children back with us to Chapter at 11:00 am. You can then collect your children at 2:30 pm. To attend the workshop please email info @ intangiblestudio.co.uk with your child’s age, name and a contact phone number. Places are limited so please contact to ensure a place.

2) ART VIDEO PROJECT
If you are interested in appearing in the artist’s video that will be made on June 14/15th or would like to be part of a creative community creating props, sets and low-fi special effects for the video during the week of 9th – 13th June at Chapter please contact: info@intangiblestudio.co.uk for details of time and meeting point. Artists and filmmakers include: Casey Raymond, Amelia Johnstone and Peter Hathaway. For details of the Art Video Project please click [here]

3) NEIGHBOURHOOD WALK SCORE + WORKSHOP:
Sunday 1st June, 2:00–5:00 pm, Chapter Arts Centre
During the week of 26 May a local Neighbourhood Walk Score will be delivered through doors in the Canton area. The Score will also be available from the front desk of Chapter Arts Centre from Tuesday 26 May. Participants are invited to follow the Neighbourhood Walk Score and bring their findings, objects and experiences to a workshop at Chapter on Sunday June 1st at 2:00 pm. At Chapter we will record and share our findings, further develop ideas and material generated from the score, and explore ways of responding to our local surroundings through the creative process.

4) CANTON CANDO
Monday 9th June – Monday 16 June: 12.00-2.00pm, Chapter Arts Centre

Davida Hewlett and her neighbour Ceres Doyle will be setting up office to host Canton CanDo – a space to help identify what existing skills and resources we hold as a community and to find ways of sharing these between us. Come bring your skill or need to the noticeboard, and we will try and match you up!
Miranda Knight (Children’s Workshops Leader) is a dancer and choreographer living in Cardiff. She has worked with many artists and companies in Wales including Music Theatre Wales, co-founding Paradox Shuffle with Marega Palser and working with pioneering theatre company Moving Being for over two decades. She is one of the founding parents of Cardiff Steiner School and is deeply involved in its day-to-day organisation.

Casey Raymond is a film-maker and illustrator based in Cardiff. As part of the duo Casey and Ewan he is responsible for a plethora of music videos, and the short films ‘The Starry Messenger’ and ‘Echt’ made with Bedwyr Williams for the Venice Biennale and Glasgow International.

Davida Hewlett (Artist and Project Leader) is an artist/educator living and working in Wales. Her interdisciplinary work has been presented widely at leading venues and galleries throughout the UK and internationally. Davida’s projects are often humorous, made in collaboration with others, and range from touring site-specific pop songs, full scale musical extravaganzas, and participatory events to artist survival manuals, talking books, home alone installations and low-fi videos. She also led the Introduction to Performance Art course at Chapter Arts Centre, and is an Associate Tutor at Cardiff School of Art and Design.