

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CHANGE MY MIND

The Emerging Artist Process

Change My Mind: The Emerging Artist Process (TEAP) is an exciting interdisciplinary performance/artist development programme and a vital part of Unfinished Business' current professional performance research project; Change My Mind (CMM).

CHANGE MY MIND

The professional project is a two-year process where a group of six mid-career artists have been exploring human capacity for change and it's impact on wellbeing. Throughout the project this interdisciplinary group of artists continue to undertake a series of tasks set for them by people surrounding their lives, in an attempt to positively affect the way they experience and impact upon the world around them. From these experiences they devise artistic reflections and audience experiences.

CHANGE MY MIND: TEAP

Unfinished Business (UB) have devised an exciting and highly original process for emerging artists. Drawing from the wealth of praxis accrued over the past year of research, the process is condensed, succinct and dynamic and is designed specifically for artists who are between 16 - 24 years old.



The project offers young artists from all disciplines an opportunity to develop their individual and collaborative practice within an innovative artistic framework. It opens a space to deepen their self-knowledge and align and integrate their personal belief system into their artistic practice. They will work with UB's 'Personal Manifesto' creative methodology and explore contemporary performance practice within a safe and supportive creative collective.

The project aims to deepen the artist's understanding of why they do what they do and how that relates to a larger artistic and political context. It seeks to engender cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural understanding, exploring radical empathy as a vehicle for personal and social change.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished Business are a London based performance company who create live art and experimental theatre with an international outlook, a sense of social responsibility and a warm heart. They are made up of Artistic Director, Leo Kay, Producer Anna Smith and an ever expanding collective of artists and associates.

Unfinished Business are currently running Change My Mind: The Emerging Artist Process in Birmingham at Midlands Arts Centre with a group called The Cannon Hill Collective. They are now interested in developing the project to involve an international network of groups, who undertake the process simultaneously and then set each other tasks virtually across the international divide.

Leo Kay has worked as a performer, teacher, director and theatre maker for over 20 years and has taught workshops, directed and performed extensively nationally and internationally. He has run performance workshops across the UK and in Ireland, Brazil, India and Belgium. He has directed work and/or performed in Brazil, Australia, France, Switzerland, Taiwan, USA and across the UK.



PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Change My Mind: TEAP is suitable for a group of between 10 and 16 emerging artists from a range of performance disciplines including dance, theatre, spoken word, fine art, poetry, music, live art, performance art, puppetry etc.

The artists would be selected through an application and interview/audition process. The aim would be to give precedent to emerging artists who don't have direct access to these sort of creative development opportunities and recruit artists from a diverse range of cultural and economic backgrounds.

PROCESS

1. Introductory workshops (3 - 6 sessions)

These sessions focus on sharing and breaking down barriers within the group and introducing the key concepts underpinning the project (Empathy, the nature of the self, post-humanism, personal change and social change and capitalism/self interest VS social responsibility).

2. Intensive Process # 1 (1-2 weeks, Daily sessions)

An intensive workshop lead by Unfinished Business (Artistic Director - Leo Kay and Producer - Anna Smith). The workshops are based UB's central methodology surrounding the creation of performance practice from personal biography. They involve creative writing to explore biography and personal manifesto, physical and spoken group improvisation and structured sound improvisations.

Towards the end of the week each artist develops and films 15 minutes of material, which expresses who they are and where they feel they are in terms of their creative expression. They are encouraged to include strong elements of autobiography.

On the final day, they each take part in a live editing installation. Sitting with an editor in front of a large projected image of themselves, they cut their footage into a 5-10 minute film. An invited audience (including the other artists in the group) act as audience to this unique, moving and insightful process.



3. Interim workshops (6 weeks-2 months, 1 session per week)

Session 1 & 2: The artists watch each other's finished autobiographical films. They are then each, randomly designated another member of the group for whom they must set a task. They have a week to devise a task, which must last between one minute and one month, that they believe could have a positive impact on the artist's creative and possibly personal development.

Session 3: They present the task to the group and then have the remaining 'interim period' to complete their task and document their process.

A local artist facilitator delivers the weekly workshops, which would be devised in collaboration with UB Artistic Director, Leo Kay and aim to stimulate thought and creative action surrounding the project's themes and performance forms.



4. Intensive Process # 2 (1-2 weeks, Daily sessions)

An intensive creation process with Unfinished Business and the local artist facilitator. During this intensive workshop the group will engage in contemporary devised performance practice, with the aim of creating audience experiences that reflect their individual process throughout the project.

Drawing on Unfinished Business's diverse artistic practice, the group will have the chance to make solo or collaborative performances that can be interactive, presentational, participatory and/or digital etc.

At the end of the week the outcome will be presented within a durational performance event, where audiences will be invited to enter the world of the project and experience the diversity of the work created, whilst considering the over all themes.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEOS BY CURRENT PARTICIPATING ARTISTS](#)