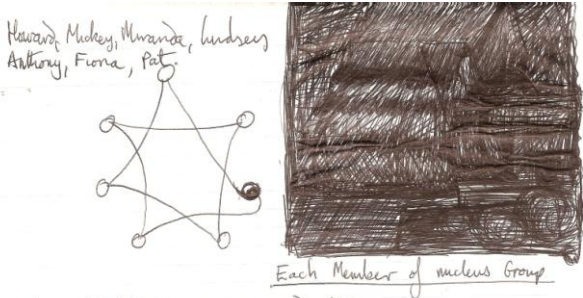


GOING: ANTHONY - 1 SUIT, 1 SHIRT, 1 TIE, MICKET }
 FIONA - 1 SUIT, 1 PAIR OF GREY SOCKS
 MIRANDA - 1 UNOISE SUIT, TIGHTS, 1 PAIR SHOES
 MORANDI - PETER - 1 WHITE BOILER SUIT, 1 PAIR BASEBALL BOOTS, 1 PAIR WHITE SOCKS
 ANTHONY - GREEN SHIRT, 1 PAIR GREEN TROUSERS, 1 SOCIC-STRAP, 1 PAIR GREEN SOCKS
 SULLIVAN - BROWN W. MAREHONSC, 1 PAIR SOCKS, COAT, 1 SUIT, 1 WHITE SHIRT, 1 TIE
 FRONT - 1 T-SHIRT, 1 SKIRT, TIGHTS, SHOES
 MICKET - 1 PAIR TROUSERS, 1 PAIR SOCKS, 1 PAIR SHIRT, 1 PAIR SHOES

3=1

Notes See also Orange.
 From Diagrammes (Anthony Howell Notebook):

Nucleus See Core Group



Draw a seven pointed star.
 In any order or configuration
 Attach each of the
 following labels to a point
 of the star:

- Manifestation *
- Samplings *
- Liaison *
- Equipment *
- Time/space *
- Questions *
- Very/awful *

Write down ~~one~~ the names of the
 nucleus group next to the labels

Write ~~one~~ the names of the nucleus
 group next to ~~one~~ the labels at
 the points of the star:

- Choose by chance either
- a) One of the resultant 7 diagrams
 - or
 - b) an order placing the 7 diagrams in a rota.

(Choose between A and B either by unanimous agreement)

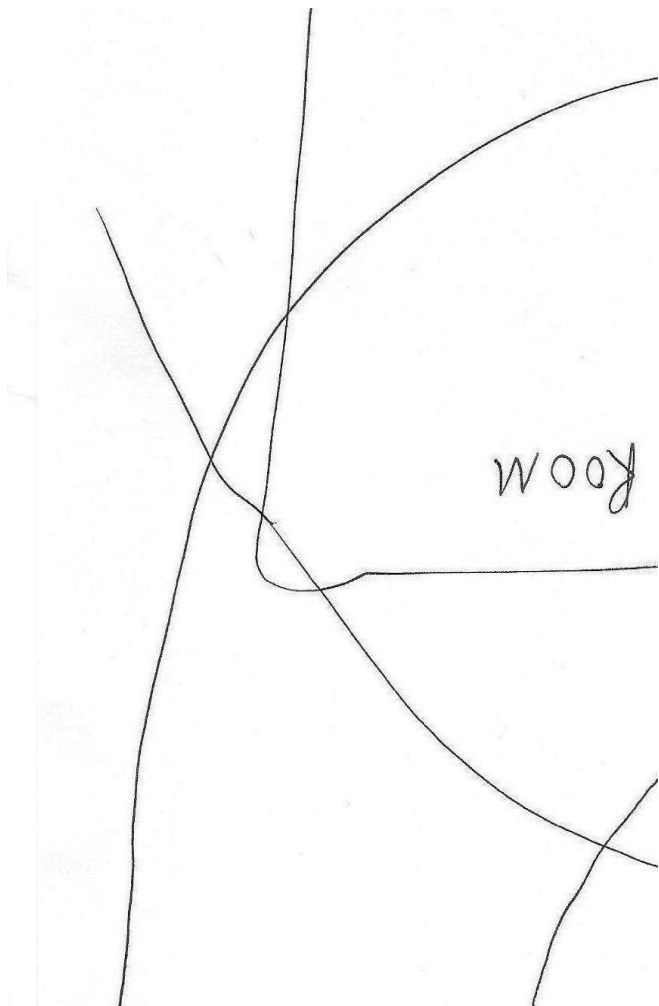
- Owen, Mike
- Overdue
- Ostracism
- Orpheus and Hermes
- Orange
- One Rule Game
- Omissions
- Nyman, Michael
- Nucleus
- Notes
- Nostalgia
- Nicholson, Annabel
- New York
- Narrative
- Nameless

DIFFUSION



An A-Z of The Ting: Theatre of Mistakes – N & O

Marie-Anne Mancio



2009-09-03

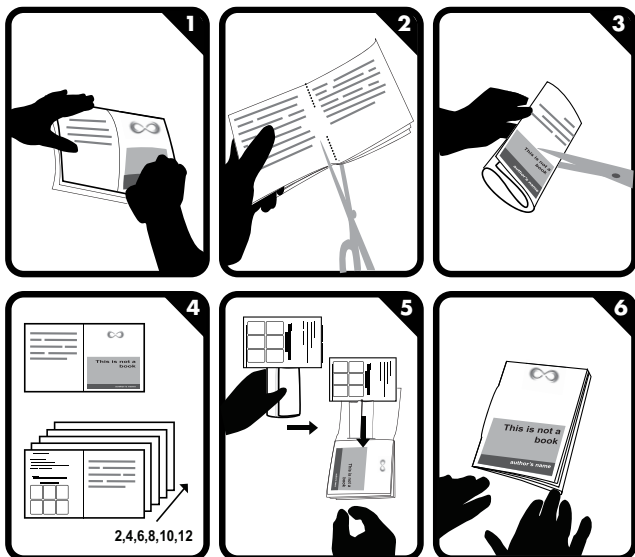
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Narrative
Madison Smartt Bell *Narrative Design* (see [Bibliography](#)):

Unknown participant in Ting workshop
Photo ©The Theatre of Mistakes, The Theatre of Mistakes Archive



Nameless

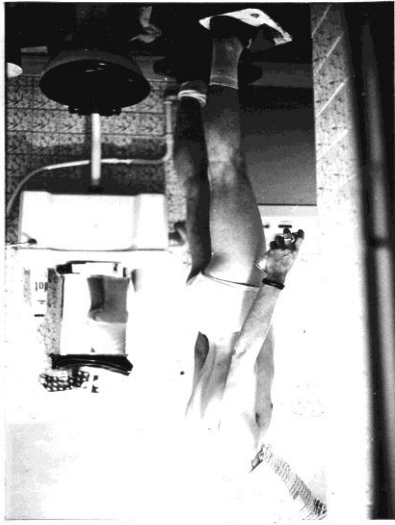
The Ting: Theatre of Mistakes

an **A-Z**

N-O

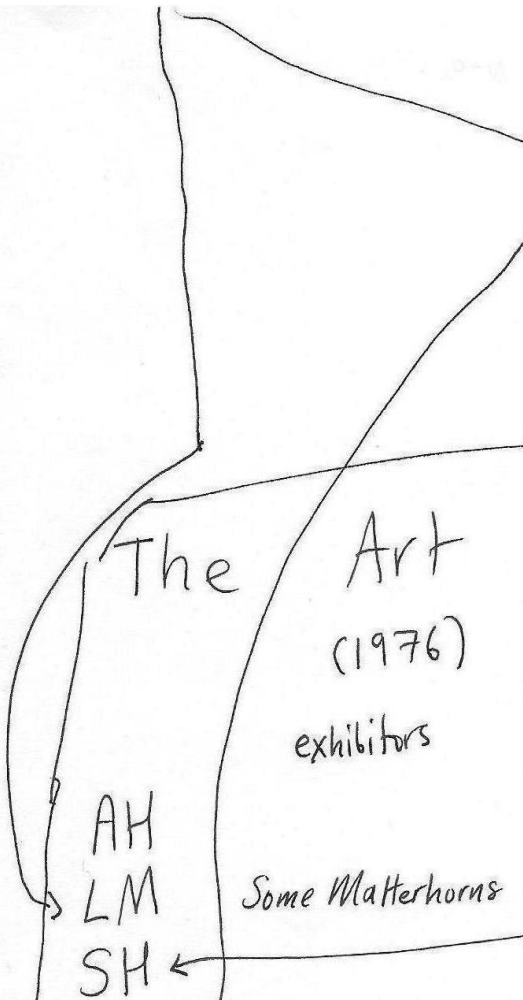
Marie-Anne Mancio

Owen, Mike
 Friend of Howard Tong. Despite being involved in several performances (see *Five Concert Pieces*, *Purdies*, *The Street*) and being photographed in Howard Tong's flying suit for the insert for promotional posters for The Theatre of Mistakes, Owen was not part of the *Core* group of 1975.
 Group *Fantasy* Piece Photo: @The Theatre of Mistakes, The Theatre of Mistakes Archive



Core Group Fantasy Piece, Summer 1975.
 Fantasy for Mike Owen

"There are many possible structures for a narrative, but the most common, familiar, and conventional of these is linear design. Linear stories start at the beginning, traverse some sort of middle, and stop at the end"
 "all linear designs bear some relationship to what is known as the Freitag triangle" (27)
 This comprises an exposition, climax, and resolution. This Freitag triangle can be divided into another 5 parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
 The Theatre of Mistakes' attitude to narrative was that **structure** could stand in for it. Exchanging the linear for the circular, this narrative, this A-Z is equally concerned with more democratic structures.
 See also: *Going*, Peter *Stickland*, *Structure*



NEW YORK
 See *Endings, Venues, Wallpaper* [Seventies] was very different from the New York of now. And compared to London, the art world was quite centralised. There were a few vital galleries like Leo Castelli, Sonnabend, Paula Cooper, John Webber and Bykert, but at that time very few of my generation had galleries. So we went to each other's studios and showed in downtown alternative spaces like Artists Space, the Clocktower, Idea Warehouse, or The Kitchen, and in avant-garde film spaces like Millennium Film Workshop and the Collective for Living Cinema. For me that was the 1970s; the sharing of ideas and work completely under the commercial radar."
 (Julia Peyton-Jones and Hans Ulrich Obrist, *Interview with Anthony McCall*, New York, Sept 2007)

The **Ting** had connections with New York as Anthony **Howell's** friend Anthony **McCall** relocated here in the early seventies with his then partner Carolee **Scheemman**. The Theatre of Mistakes toured there in 1978 with *Going* and *Waterfall 6* (Paula Cooper Gallery) and Fiona **Templeton** remained, establishing herself as an integral part of the performance scene.

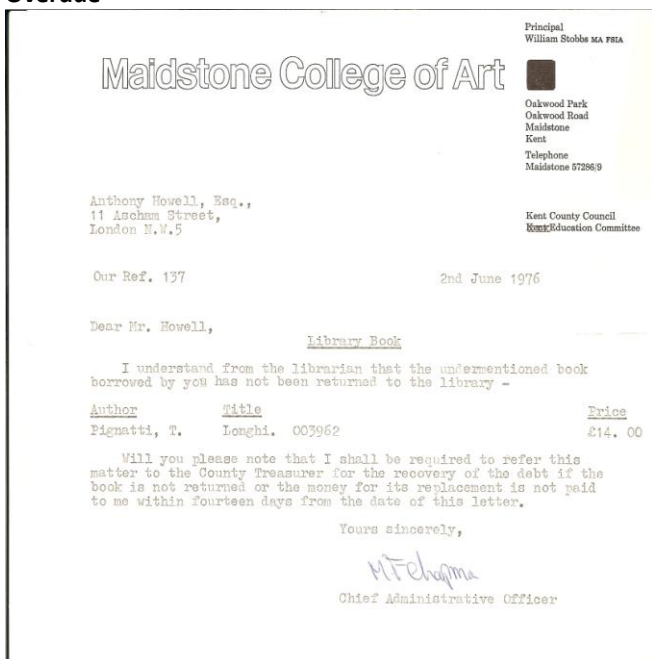
A few 1970s New York moments:
 1970 NY's first Gay Pride march, Christopher St; 1971 Andy Warhol at The Whitney; 1972 The World Trade Center opens; 1973 Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets*; 1974 Philippe Petit walks a wire between the twin towers of the WTC; 1975 New York is on the brink of bankruptcy; 1977 a two-day blackout, looting, murders 'Son of Sam,' and disco fever; 1978 Richard Nixon's memoirs are on the bestseller list; 1979 Woody Allen's *Manhattan*.

Program Notes: The Theatre of Mistakes Scenes at a Table, *Homage to Pietro Longhi* (September 1976), The Theatre of Mistakes Archive

But throughout the piece there is a conflict between freedom and adherence to rules. For the first performer in any act exists only as a memory for subsequent performers: intent on repeating the earlier actions of that initial performer, they attempt to ignore the instigator's present existence, only observing him or her in order to repeat that performer's actions later. Should any recognise that instigator's existence in the present, because of some breakdown in their observation or repetition of the actions set up, they are in turn ignored by all the other performers. But now, having broken the rules

Ostracism
 There was a game, Fiona Templeton recalls. One person was chosen by chance to be ostracised and would have to try to get the other performers to recognise their existence. If a person recognised the ostracised, they too became ostracised. The game continued until all but one performer is ostracised.....

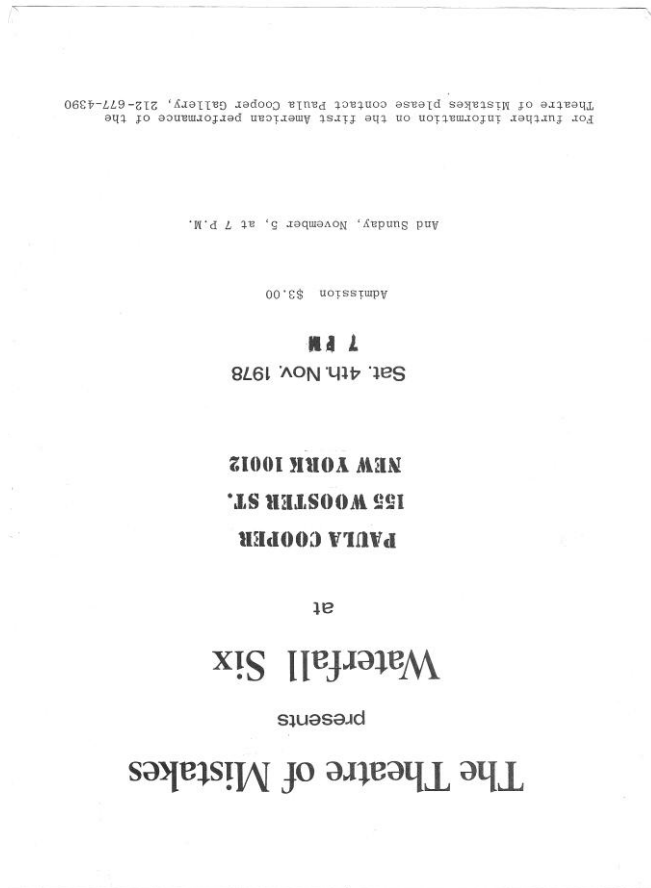
Overdue



Letter from Maidstone College Library to Anthony Howell, The Theatre of Mistakes Archive
 See also: Art Schools, *Homage to Pietro Longhi*

Also overdue is a retrospective of The Ting: Theatre of Mistakes and a reassessment of its contribution to British performance/conceptual art practice.

Flyer, The Theatre of Mistakes Archive, see [Literary](#)



New York in the 70s
 Photos: ©The New York Times

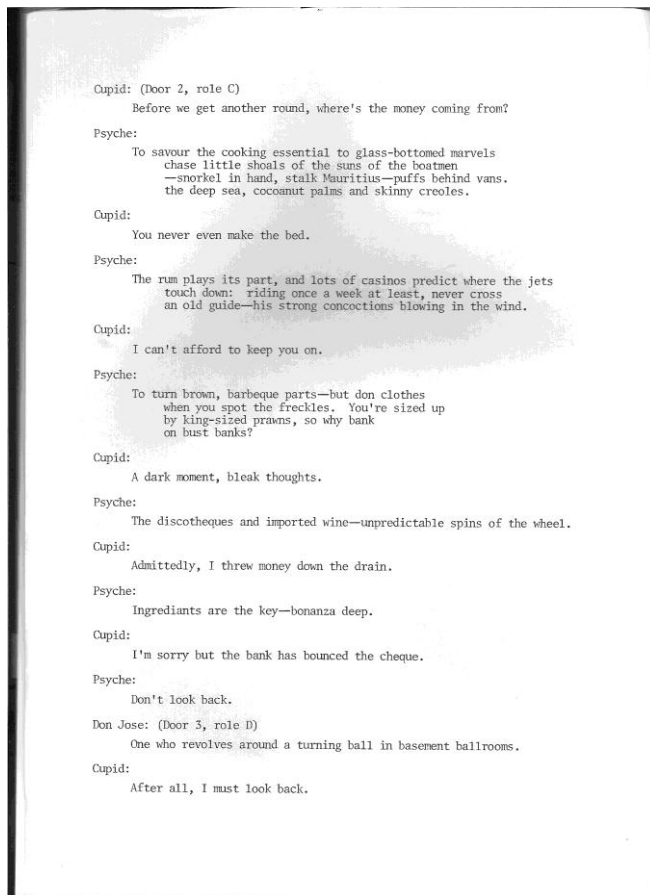
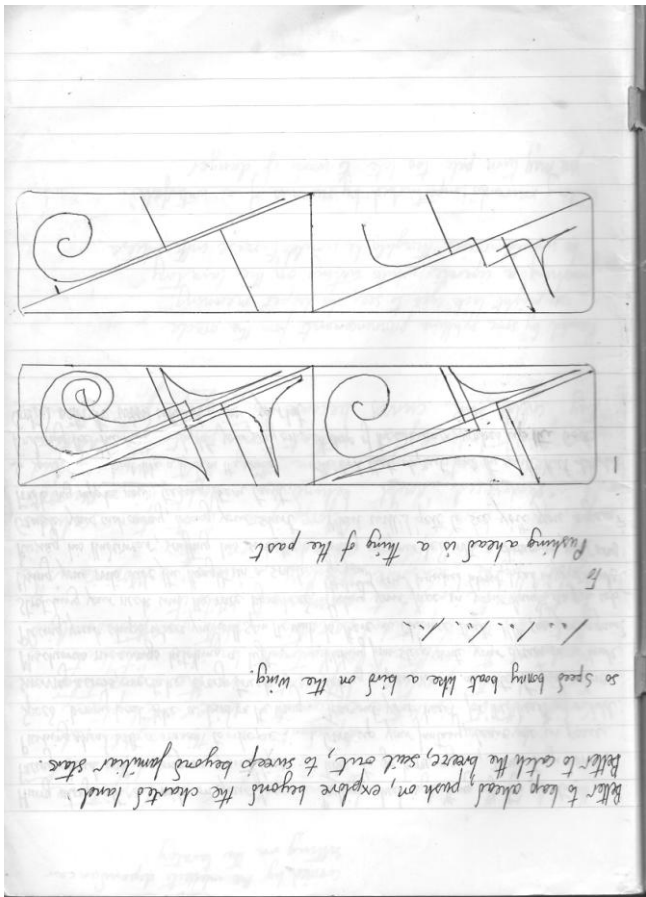
Nicholson, Annabel (1946-)

Film maker. Studied at Hornsey School of Art, then Edinburgh College of Art, and St. Martin's. She appeared in *The Street* (1975).

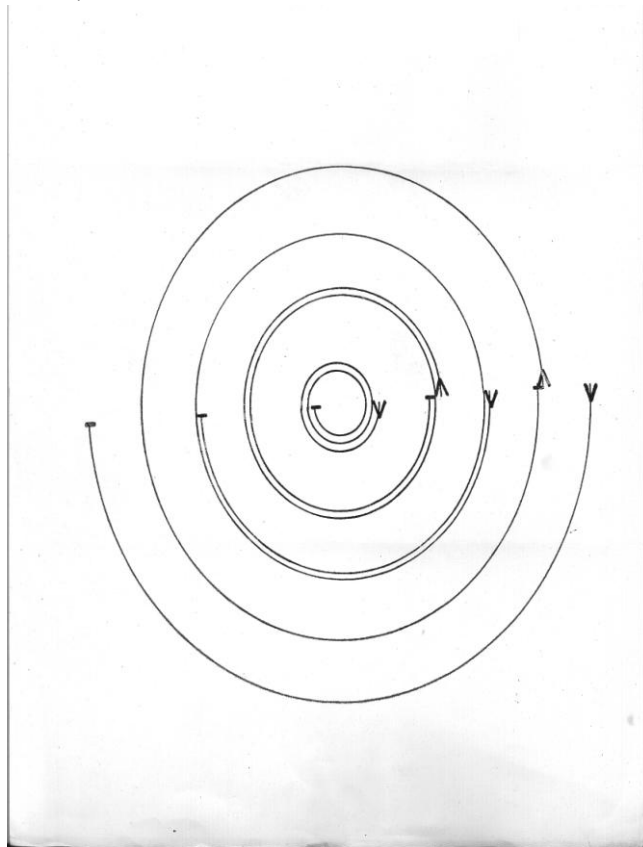
See also: Jane Clark, The Dairy, London Film Makers Co-op, *Wallpaper*

For a biography and filmography, see:
http://www.luxonline.org.uk/artists/annabel_nicholson/index.html

For an essay, see Felicity Sparrow "Annabel Nicholson: The Art of Light and Shadow" [http://www.luxonline.org.uk/artists/annabel_nicholson/essay\(1\).html](http://www.luxonline.org.uk/artists/annabel_nicholson/essay(1).html)



Orpheus and Hermes ©Anthony Howell
The Theatre of Mistakes Archive



Ninth Method

See Peter [Stickland](#)

Notation

See also [Dance](#)

[Performance](#) has created notation languages for itself. The play has the script with stage directions; music has the score; dance has Benesh or Labanotation; opera has the libretto ... Then there is [memory](#) or the usefulness of the performer-teacher whose 'coaching' enables new generations to interpret these samples of notation with the benefit of extra-textual knowledge (that little bit of business the actor engaged in during their line; the height of the dancer's elevation in arabesque, and so on.) There is no sole notation system for performance/live art, though there have been attempts to establish one (see [Bibliography](#)). To codify an art form that has consistently refused to be defined, that has flourished in the inbetween, in the fluid and the unfixed, seems an act of contradiction. The interdisciplinary, multi-media aspect of much performance/live art also complicates acts of notation. Works are often filmed for convenience. The method we choose in notating a work are often indicative of the nature of our engagement with it: the actor will highlight the script, annotate, literally mark out their role in relevant sections (their speech, their cues, their entrances and exits....). A writer reviewing a work, may attempt to evoke the visible poetry through text, to render images unnecessary. The Theatre of Mistakes adopted a gamut of notation systems (see [Documentation](#)).

“She had become all root”
 (Rainer Maria Rilke’s version *Orpheus, Eurydice, Hermes*)
 In Greek mythology, Orpheus (son of Apollo) is the ‘father’ of songs though. When his wife Eurydice dies his grief is so intense that he resolves to go to the underworld to bring her back. Hades finally agrees to his entreaties on the condition that Orpheus does

See also: **Lost Farm, Muse; Miranda Payne; Julian Maynard Smith**
Orpheus and Hermes

Orange Notebooks
 There are many orange notebooks containing copious writings by Anthony **Howell**. Fiona **Templeton** remembers these.... Their contents have not been scanned for The Theatre of Mistakes **Archive**.

Linked couples. One of the pair must walk backwards at any time.”

EG of rule –

Participants
 May be drawn from all walks of life [...]

1 Musician/composer: Will be able to stimulate an awareness of music in conjunction with participants relying on little if any musical experience among them and depending for auditory effect more on the virtuosity of expensive instruments – hand clapping, shouting, armpit music etc. will also be able to create music systems in conjunction with professional musicians he may feel obliged to call upon for concerts without lay participation

not look back as he leaves. When Orpheus cannot resist, it is Hermes, the messenger god, who must take Eurydice back to the underworld forever.

Both Peter **Stickland** and Anthony **McCall** have suggested that part of Anthony **Howell**’s motivation for writing *Orpheus and Hermes* was the attitude of theatre critics some of whom – even when complimentary about The Theatre of Mistakes’ work – implied that this was a company in search not so much of an author, but of a script.

(Written in 1981, the following review in *The Times* refers to *Going* and *Homage to Morandi*. It manages to miss the point spectacularly:

But, though appealing, it feels sterile; the content is over-extended, and the form is too great a part of it. This dedicated company is still groping for the text, combining complexity, austerity and theatrical resonance, which will enable it to say what it can say and nobody else can.

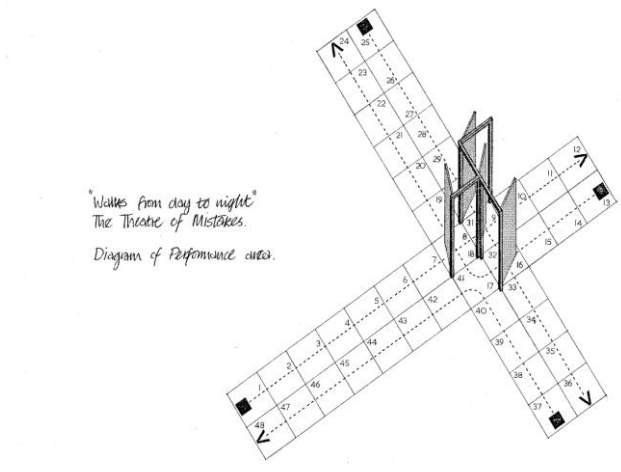
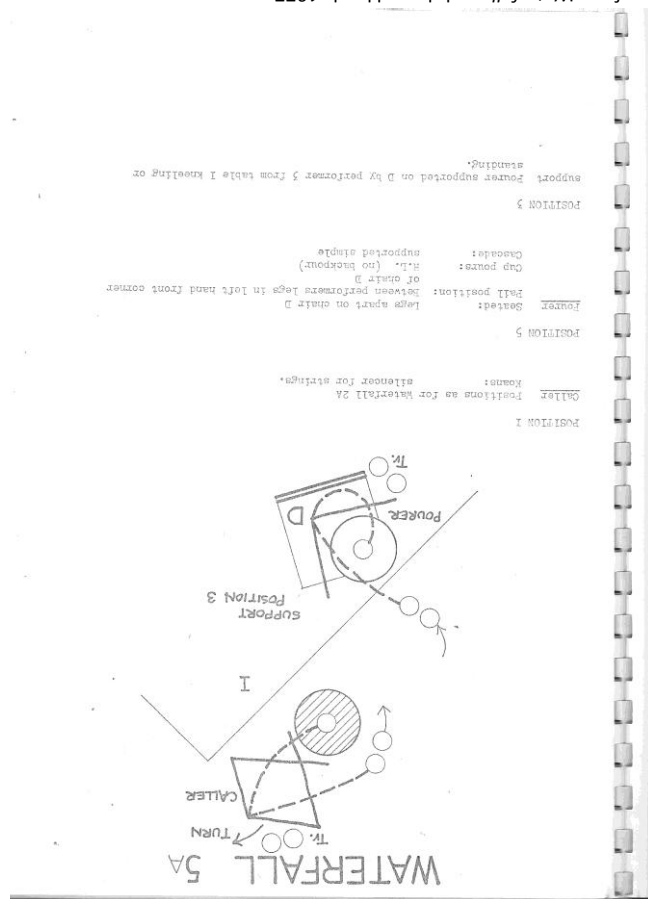
“Dedicated Company in quest of a text: The Theatre of Mistakes at Jeanetta Cochrane” see **Bibliography**)

Howell delivered a script. A clever, poetic, dense script. An actors’ script. The *Mickery* in Amsterdam, a **venue** which had previously shown *Going* was not convinced.

Another inspiration was Howell’s complex romantic life and in the figures of Orpheus and Hermes, in the notion of being caught between looking forward and looking back, perhaps he rehearsed his indecision.

P.S.

An observer (**unattributed**) recalls Anthony Howell donning a fur stole and a pair of high-heeled shoes in a bid to show Miranda Payne how to perform her lines ‘properly’...



The game lasts for four weeks and is recommended for the summer months although no weather conditions are particularly averse to its nature.

the streets or indoors.

such as parks in urban areas. At the same time it can be played in specifically designed for performance in public recreation spaces

“One rule game is an art event organized by a 4 person team. It is

A proposal for a work by Anthony Howell, Andrew Eden, [composer] John White, [dancer] Fergus Early; June/July 1974, Hampstead Heath.

One Rule Game

There are bound to be some unintentional omissions. Certain photographers for instance have not been identified. Apologies. This text is intended and extended as an invitation to dialogue and such omissions can be rectified in subsequent versions. However, there are also intentional omissions. This is perhaps the inevitable dilemma of gossip. (See Unattributed)

Omissions

See Additive, Music, Unattributed

Nyman, Michael (1944-) Composer, musicologist, and video artist credited with coining the term Minimalist in relation to music (1968). His compositions include chamber works and operas (*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*), scores for film makers Peter Greenaway (*The Draughtsman's Contract, Drowning by Numbers*, and so on) and Jane Campion (*The Piano*). Friend of Anthony Howell who appears in the list of performers and artists in the *Elements* book.

The game is played from approximately 10am to 7pm each day, during which time at least one of the instigating team will be present in the chosen public arena.

The game can involve any number of participants with no previous experience of art activity.

It can be taught in a matter of minutes and will prove particularly useful to art teachers in depressed areas as well as to social workers and educationalists dealing with the handicapped and the elderly.

The game relies on a bare minimum of props. [...]

The Team

- 1 writer
- 1 visual artist
- 1 musician/composer
- 1 dancer

1 writer: To create instant poem systems, megaphone poem pieces, poster poems, minimal drama dialogue, sound poems and oratorios. The writer chosen will have the ability to impart his ideas both to the gathered participants and to the fellow artists on his team with the minimum fuss and bother [...]

1 visual artist: To create and present art objects, concepts and actions drawn from materials at hand and from ideas generated by the landscape in which the game is played. [...]

Nostalgia See also: Memory, Mistakes

Memories may be nostalgic because they involve the act of not just evoking an experience but of re-inhabiting of it. This re-living of the past - and all its (dis)contents - entails, in phenomenological terms, accepting the notion of absence. Rather than remembering the act, the person, the object, we remember how we perceived the act, the person, the object. Hence in remembering a performance by The Theatre of Mistakes, a participant will continue to recall what they could see from the position they occupied (how they saw it) at the time. This is borne out by interviewees questioned by Jason E Bowman and myself for research: in describing the earlier works (pre-Going), participants noted there were whole sections they knew were occurring but could not physically see and hence did not attempt to convey, focusing instead on audience reaction or their own actions or those of someone in their line of vision. The role of nostalgia in this process could be said to be closely allied to the role of the mistake since the act of remembering even one's own perception may be coloured by projection. Suddenly the moment is no longer as it was perceived; it has become complicated by desire and recreation, be this the benefit of hindsight, a change in attitude, a wish to revive the past to suit the narrative of the present or the hopes for the future. Nostalgia, rose-tinted glasses, a romanticised view, a re-writing... whilst riddled with mistakes, this story is actually a leap into the imaginary.

From the notebooks of Anthony Howell, notation of *Waterfall* (1977)

