

Project: *ORO – the vanishing point*

Researcher: Sam Trubridge, New Zealand

Main research question: *ORO* examines various movements between states to define a performance proposal with a holistic treatment of power structures in state, performance, culture and architecture. A key research question involves how spatial architectural dramaturgies can be used in performance to guide an audience and their experience of the event – negotiating between the disciplined, prescribed space of the proscenium theatre and the more anarchic, democratic space of the city.

Research context: *ORO* is the third in a suite of works that investigate perspectives and viewpoints in theatre. *Sleep/Wake* (2008-9) studied the sleeping body and its relationship to constructs within theatre architecture and the audience culture. *Ecology in Fifths* (2010-2014) examines perspectives on landscape and contemporary myths of a clean, green New Zealand. *ORO* develops these interests in landscape, culture, politics and the body by examining the theatre as an object within the cultural and architectural terrain of the city. As such it also employs the director's other major research project, conducted through *The Performance Arcade* series of events in public spaces in New Zealand.

This production is being developed towards an opening season at Hawkes Bay Opera House, New Zealand and subsequent presentations in festivals and venues around NZ and internationally. It is anticipated that a large team of contributors will benefit from this opportunity to examine their work in the context of experimental, cross disciplinary practices. Moreover, the work will integrate with the cities and communities it encounters to animate and re-enchant everyday spaces. All the while research questions are being examined around methods of audience interaction in live performance, in particular testing a mathematics or science for bending free-willed interaction into compliant spectatorship.

Research methods:

- Mathematical probability equations based around individual and group movement made in response to performance architectures and protocols.
- Design processes of drafting, rendering and construction of performance prototypes/models.
- Theoretical readings of texts.
- Design and performance workshops testing concepts and prototypes in live performance situations in theatres and on city streets.

Web links to related work:

www.theplaygroundnz.com

www.waking.co.nz