

**Nottingham 2015**

# Acting ut

**April and May**

# INTRODUCING ACTING OUT

## Nottingham 2015

Acting Out Nottingham 2015 is a festival that celebrates artistic expression through performative engagement at the interface of art and mental health through an investigation of the concept of 'acting out'.

The starting point for the programme is the contested term 'acting out', which connects psychological language with the rhetoric of social order and performativity. This exploration is intended to facilitate collaborations between arts and health disciplines in order to change the way that deviant behaviour is perceived.

Our approach is based on the history and understanding that the term 'acting-out' reveals. On the one hand, it references the contested discourses surrounding mental illness, stigma and discrimination whilst, on the other, it refers to the aesthetic relationship between psychoanalysis and social order.

Having already existed as an artistic term, which simply meant to 'perform or to portray', Freud introduced 'acting out' to psychoanalysis in 1905 to describe what happened when his patient Dora prematurely broke off her treatment with him. He concluded that she had 'acted out an essential part of her recollection and phantasies', referring to unconscious defences, impulses and feelings expressed as a defence mechanism.

The Italian revolutionary psychiatrist Franco Basaglia further shifted the meaning of acting out to describe a confrontation between the patient and the psychiatric institution within a system of power, when he wrote: 'The patient is now just an institutionalised body, which perceives itself as an object and sometimes tries – when it is not totally tamed – to re-conquer by means of an apparently incomprehensible 'acting out''. \*

In its popular use, 'acting out' now describes a whole range of impulsive or antisocial behaviours and is often confused with 'acting up', which means simply to misbehave.

*Acting Out Nottingham 2015* explores the various iterations of 'acting out' through new commissions and existing works. It offers multiple approaches to the term from its psychoanalytic origins to the basic sense of translating subjective feelings into performative action. The programme will showcase works that have different languages and rhythms, which will provide audiences with a variety of experiences and levels of engagement including moving image, artist's residency, music, dance, performance, exhibition and discussions.

Following the methodology of Anxiety 2014, the programme has a special focus on interdisciplinary and socially engaged practices, involving professionals and communities from arts and mental health sectors and promoting creativity and social interaction. It aims to stimulate collaboration and discussion and to challenge the stigma associated with mental illness by engaging audiences in a positive dialogue about mental health in a cultural rather than clinical setting.

Working closely with Nottingham Contemporary, Primary, Broadway and Nottingham Lakeside Arts as well as Nottingham Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, we have curated a series of interdisciplinary and process-based collaborations with arts and mental health organisations: from community groups to leading arts centres, and artists categorized as 'outsiders' to mainstream practitioners.

Errol Francis  
Festival Director

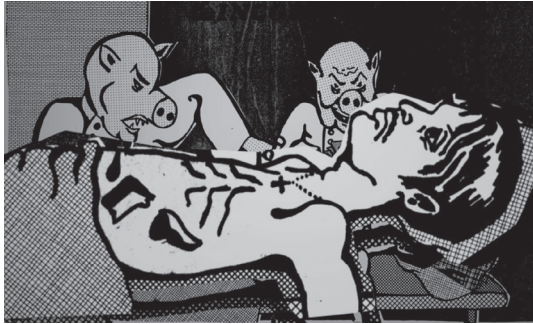
\* Franco Basaglia (1970) *La institución negada: Informe de un hospital psiquiátrico*, Barcelona; Barral Editores.  
Translated from Spanish by Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz.



# PROGRAMME

## INTO THIS RECOVERY CENTER

**Jenna Bliss**  
**Wednesday 8 April, 7pm**  
**Nottingham Contemporary, The Space**



Courtesy Jenna Bliss

For this new performance Jenna Bliss draws on the history of the Lincoln Detox in the South Bronx, New York. In the 1960s and 70s the South Bronx was one of the poorest communities in the United States and consumed by heroin addiction. As a result in 1970 the Lincoln Detox was initiated following the occupation of Lincoln Hospital by local addicts, *Think Lincoln* a group of doctors from the hospital, members of the *Young Lords* and *Black Panther Party*, as well as community health workers from the *Health Revolutionary Unity Movement* (HRUM), together they launched a drug detox programme.

In an anxious society drugs, both legal and illegal, are what we internalise to effect our way of 'being here' (or 'there'). In this performance, Bliss looks at what society considers as drugs, and how state law, foreign policy and agencies such as the CIA, influence the definition and availability of drugs. Bliss brings together diverse elements that trace the history of Lincoln Detox to the present day, allowing spheres of social engagement to be exposed, disrupted and reassembled. The performance will use some Eastern practices already used by the clinic to think through our own anxiety in the West.

Jenna Bliss (b.1984 Yonkers, NY) is an artist and filmmaker living in New York.

Free entry // Into this Recovery Center was co-commissioned by South London Gallery and PSY - Acting Out Nottingham 2015  
[www.nottinghamcontemporary.org](http://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org)

## POST-SURVEILLANCE ART

**Suzanne Treister**  
**Preview: Thursday 9 April, 6–8pm**  
**Primary**  
**Exhibition continues until Saturday 9 May 2015**

Suzanne Treister's Post-Surveillance Art is a brazen, colourful and psychedelic comment on our post-Edward Snowden reality. This exhibition takes contemporary surveillance culture as a given and attempts to represent what this culture looks like, its imagery, its vocabulary, its aspirations and its potential futures. Reflecting a post-surveillance mindset, the work plays with the imagery of organisations that store all our data, such as the National Security Agency in the USA and GCHQ in the UK and suggests future hypothetical social states of being and awareness. The posters are ambiguous in their political position, with their vivid colours, computerised graphics and bold proclamations representing 'a kind of hallucinogenic drug induced visionary landscape, a kind of pop poetry' for our post-surveillance age.

Since the late 1980s Treister's work has explored new developments and histories of technology, investigating structures of power, both visible and hidden. Through her revelations Treister allows us to re-act to these systems of knowledge and assumptions of truths.

For the final weekend of the exhibition there will be a programme of events. For further details please see website.



Suzanne Treister, *POST-SURVEILLANCE ART POSTER / NSA SEX BOMB*, 2014. Courtesy the artist, Annelly Juda Fine Art, London and P.P.O.W., New York

Free entry  
[www.weareprimary.org](http://www.weareprimary.org)

## SLEEPWALKING SCREEN (ÉCRAN SOMNAMBULE)

**Latifa Laâbissi**  
**Friday 10 April, 7pm**  
**Nottingham Contemporary, The Space**



Latifa Laâbissi, *Écran Somnambule* 2012, Photo Margot Videcoq

Latifa Laâbissi's solo dance *Écran somnambule* is a reinterpretation of Mary Wigman's *Witch Dance* from 1926, based on the 1.40 min existing film excerpt of Wigmans seminal piece. Latifa Laâbissi has chosen to address the question of re-enactment as part of her process of choreographic creation and has plunged deep inside the symbolic archaeology of the work, slowing it down to 31 minutes and distorting it. The dance, once detached from its initial foundation, now distended and metabolised, shows us an extraordinary shape: a body bowed completely backwards, arms extended, head blown back, face turned to the sky, a body transformed by an interpretation which stretches time as if driven by an invisible power.

Costume design and concept by Nadia Lauro // Free entry  
[www.nottinghamcontemporary.org](http://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org)

## CREATIVITY AND 'INNER VISION'

**Institute of Inner Vision**  
**Saturday 11 April, 1pm**  
**Broadway**

Sal Anderson, director of the Institute of Inner Vision, London College of Communication, UAL, will introduce three filmmakers who will show recent films that expose and explore themes around the experience of psychosis, being a carer of someone experiencing mental health difficulties and the aftermath of trauma.

Susan Young, *It Started With A Murder*, 2013

While studying graphic design at Liverpool Polytechnic Young was introduced to the idea that animation could be an extension of drawing into time and space, a vehicle for the expression of personal thoughts and emotions, and a medium for political commentary.



Susan Young, *It started with a Murder*, 2013

Antonia Attwood, *My Mother Tongue*, 2014

Antonia Attwood's work is an exploration of her mother's experience with Bipolar disorder, as imagined through the eyes of her daughter. The body of work builds on how the condition is experienced by the mother, scrutinizing her internal and external worlds.

Dolly Sen, *Outside*, 2013

Do you know what it is like to subjectively know psychosis? Do you know the bravery needed just to embark on a shopping trip? Can you reach out and touch a world that can cause so much terror? Can you be in the shoes of madness for a moment?

There will be a conversation, Q & A and workshop with Sal Anderson, Antonia Attwood, Susan Young and Dolly Sen

Tickets £3.50 // [www.broadway.org.uk](http://www.broadway.org.uk)

## ASYLUM



**Dir. Peter Robinson, 1972, 95 min**  
**Saturday 11 April, 3.30pm**  
**Broadway**



*Asylum* © 1972 renewed 2000 Surveillance Films, Inc.

In 1971, filmmaker Peter Robinson entered radical psychiatrist R D Laing's controversial Archway Community - where the residents ran the asylum. In a rare cinema screening, this utterly engrossing documentary records their seven-week stay, testing Laing's conviction that mentally ill people can only heal their shattered 'self' in a space where they are free.

Following the screening will be a conversation and Q & A.

Tickets £3.50 // [broadway.org.uk](http://broadway.org.uk)

## SELECTIONS FROM THE 'FIVE YEAR DIARY' (1982–1994)



**Anne Charlotte Robertson**  
**Sunday 12 April, 1pm**  
**Broadway**



Anne Charlotte Robertson Collection, Harvard Film Archive

Begun in the early 1980s and running to over thirty eight hours of Super 8 film, Anne Charlotte Robertson's (1949–2012) *Five Year Diary* stands as one of the major works of diary film-making. The films are an intimate and exhaustively narrated chronicle of her daily life in Framingham, Massachusetts and her battles with depression, paranoia, and borderline schizophrenia. Over the course of the Diary, Robertson's unflinching documentation of her nervous breakdowns and hospitalisations, her obsessive crush on Doctor Who actor Tom Baker, her battles with weight, the side effects of prescription medication and the death of her three-year-old niece, Emily.

The event will include a Q&A with Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz (Associate Curator, Acting Out Nottingham) and Benjamin Cook (Director, LUX).

Tickets £3.50 // [broadway.org.uk](http://broadway.org.uk)

## THE INSTITUTION

**Dir. Ian Breakwell, 1978**  
**Tuesday 14 April, 6.30pm**  
**Nottingham Contemporary, The Space**



Courtesy of the Artist's Estate and LUX, London

The Institution (directed by Ian Breakwell and Kevin Coyne) emerged from Breakwell's work at Rampton Hospital as part of the Artist Placement Group which placed artists within Rampton and Broadmoor high security hospitals. Breakwell's experimental documentary is a critique of the institution of mental health care and is more directly articulated in a report co-written with a group of architects on the proposed top-to-bottom restructuring of Rampton Hospital that was proposed at the time he made the film.

This screening will include a conversation and Q & A. For further details please see website.

Free entry // [www.nottinghamcontemporary.org](http://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org)

## HEARING THINGS

**Playing ON**  
**Saturday 18 April, 7.30 pm**  
**Nottingham Lakeside Arts, The Theatre,**

'Hearing Things' is a drama directed by Jim Pope involving collaboration between the Playing ON Theatre Company, NHS clinicians and residents of a local hospital, drawing together the stories of those receiving and providing mental health care. The programme will look at their journey from when they are admitted, received their diagnoses, are prescribed medication and begin a 'talking' therapy, to returning back to community. Through the delivery of drama workshops with people based in patient settings, *Hearing Things* will validate the individual and communal experiences of suffering with and recovering from mental illness.



Tickets £5  
[www.lakesidearts.org.uk](http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk)

Hearing Things,  
courtesy Playing ON

## RESEARCH FOCUSED RESIDENCY WITH RAMPTON HOSPITAL AND PRIMARY

**April and May**

This new part time residency, conceived by Rampton Hospital, Primary and PSY will support an art research project engaging with the discourses that surround art within psychiatric contexts. The residency asks the artist to look at the history of how closed institutions have engaged with art and artists and vice versa, especially in the light of previous and existing experiments with art and performance ranging from therapeutic, socially engaged and expressive work. The residency asks the artist to explore these areas through the history of the Artist Placement Group whose archives are held at Tate Britain, and by looking into the history of the way in which art has been used within the hospital.

Public events will take place at Primary Residency conceived by PSY in collaboration with Rampton Hospital and Primary

[www.weareprimary.org](http://www.weareprimary.org)

## MUSIC WORKSHOPS WITH NOTTINGHAM HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**Lea Cornthwaite, leader of the Mind and Soul Choir at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.**

Taking its inspiration from Lea Cornthwaite's Mind & Soul Choir based at the Maudsley Hospital in London, this project will develop and deliver musical workshops in close collaboration with Nottingham Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The Mind & Soul Choir was founded as a way of promoting mental wellbeing and reducing some of the stigma surrounding mental illness through singing. Lea Cornthwaite is a singer, choir director and vocal & songwriting amateur who works with children as young as 5 to adults up to 95, and with singers and non-singers alike.

## ANXIETY FANFARE AND VARIATION FOR VOICES

**Jocelyn Pook**  
**June 2015. Date to be announced.**  
**See website for updates.**  
**Nottingham Lakeside Arts**

First commissioned by Anxiety Arts Festival London 2014 (now PSY) and premièred at the Wigmore Hall, London this work extends Pook's interest in the experience of mental illness, which she explored in her ground-breaking 2012 work *Hearing Voices*. The Fanfare is written in five movements and is 26 minutes duration and draws on the unique potential of professional and nonprofessional singers. For Acting Out 2015, the fanfare will be rehearsed and performed



with a community choir composed of mental health service users and professionals.

[www.lakesidearts.org.uk](http://www.lakesidearts.org.uk)

Jocelyn Pook, photo  
© Hugo Glendinning

Acting Out Nottingham 2015 is a curated programme of performance, exhibition, moving image, music and discussions – bringing together the arts and mental health.

Generated by PSY, Acting Out Nottingham 2015 is the first themed programme created from the success of Anxiety Arts Festival London 2014, which originated at the Institute of Inner Vision, based at London College of Communication, University of the Arts London.

For full programme, venue,  
booking information please visit:  
[www.actingout2015.org](http://www.actingout2015.org)

## PSY

Institute of Inner Vision

Festival Director: Errol Francis  
Curated by Mette Kjærgaard Præst  
Associate Curator: Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz  
Curatorial Consultants: Victoria Tischler and Isobel Whitelegg  
Communications Consultant: Penny Sychrava  
Graphic Design: Praline

**ual:** university  
of the arts  
london  
college  
of communication



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**Nottingham  
Contemporary**

**PRIMARY**

**broadway**  
CINEMA | CAFE BAR | NOTTINGHAM

Nottinghamshire Healthcare **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

NOTTINGHAM  
**LAKE  
SIDE  
ARTS**

**SLG**

