

Call for Papers

Performance in/and the Street (Deadline extended to Dec. 31)

A Graduate Symposium at York University, 26 April 2013.

Toronto, Ontario

In recent years, with the popularity of such global movements as Occupy and SlutWalk, the issue of public protest and performance has been at the forefront of debates about how we engage with and in public spaces. This symposium will take up the issue of street performance/performing the streets in light of these recent phenomena. Jan Cohen-Cruz defines street performances as ones which “take place in public by-ways with minimal constraints of access.” With this definition of open access in mind, we hope to problematize issues surrounding the relationship between public and private space via examples of both activist and commercial street performances and other public acts of social engagement on the streets.

This symposium is guided by a number of questions, including: How is the digital expanding our understanding of street and public performance? How has/does street performance relate to political, social and environmental change? In what ways are public and private spaces contested via street performance? How can/have street performances both reinscribe(d) and challenge(d) nationalistic sentiments? How does street performance take up the issue of globalisation? What tactics and practices are common to street performances? How have tactics been updated and altered through continued street performance interventions? How does street performance engage both public and private spaces? How does public and/or corporate funding (or lack thereof) influence street performance? We invite proposals that take up any aspect of performance and/in the street.

The one-day symposium will feature a keynote talk by Jan Cohen-Cruz (Syracuse University). Cohen-Cruz is the author of *Engaging Performance: Theatre as Call and Response and Local Acts: Community-Based Performance in the US*. She also edited *Radical Street Performance*, a key text in recent scholarship surrounding street performances, and co-edited (with Mady Schutzman) *Playing Boal: Theatre, Therapy, Activism and A Boal Companion: Dialogues on Art and Cultural Politics*. She is also the director of *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life*, an association of 90 colleges and universities across the United States that facilitates campus-community connections through the humanities, arts and design.

The one-day symposium features keynote speakers Jan Cohen-Cruz (Professor, Syracuse University; Director, *Imagining America*) and Morgan Jenness (*The People's Puppets of Occupy Wall Street*; Literary Agent/Dramaturg; Instructor at Fordham University).

Proposals may consider (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- site-specific/site-generic performance
- corporately-sponsored public art events
- food and street festivals
- street performance's relation to questions of gender, race and class
- historical examples of street performance
- public protest
- street art
- environmental theatre
- flash mobs, lip dubs etc.
- parkour

- public memorials

Submissions

We invite papers, curated panels, workshops and performances (including durational pieces and installations) that address street performance in both a Canadian and international context. For performance proposals, please include a description of the piece and any technical/space requirements. Please also include what type of environment you envision your performance in as we may program some presentations off-campus.

Please send proposals of 250-words or less by December 31, 2012 to:
street.performance.york@gmail.com. Please include your full name, email address, affiliation and any A/V requests along with a short (100 word) bio.