public space (2018)

score for a song and dance walk in a city

Preparation

Three stations nearby some graffiti are marked out. Each station is out of ear-shot from the other stations, however, they are all still only a short walk apart from eachother. Before the performance, some of the short texts written in graffiti at each station are transcoded, letter by letter, into parameters corresponding to song and dance. Thus, each short graffiti text corresponds to a short performance of song and dance. Before the audience arrives, Performer 1 (P1) waits at Station 1 (S1), Performer 2 (P2) waits at Station 2 (S2), Performer 3 (P3) waits at Station 3 (S3). P1 or fourth performer is asked beforehand to guide the audience to S1 — without first passing by the other stations.

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Performance

As the audience arrives first at S1, P1 performs for around two minutes two different texts at S1. P1 repeats each text for about a minute, pausing between each repetition, with a slightly longer pause when switching from the first to the second text.

P2, waiting at S2, cues P1 to stop by playfully yelling one of the texts particular to S2. Immediately after yelling, P2 starts to perform the first of their two texts. On hearing the yell, P1 abruptly stops performing and proceeds to silently guide the audience to S2. As P1 arrives to S2, P1 performs two texts corresponding to S2, simlutaneous with P2, yet rhythmically unsynchronized. From the moment P1 begins performing at S2, both P1 and P2 continue to repeat their texts for about one minute, pausing between each repetition, with a slightly longer pause when switching from the first to the second text.

P3, waiting at S3, cues P1 and P2 to stop by each playfully yelling one of the texts particular to S3. Immediately after yelling, P3 begins to perform the first of their two texts. On hearing the yell, P1 and P2 abruptly stop performing and proceed to silently guide the audience to S3. Upon arrival at S3, P1 and P2 each perform two texts corresponding to S3, simultaneously, yet rhymthmically unsychronized. From the moment P1 and P2 begin to perform at S3, all of the performers continue to repeat their texts for about two minutes, pausing between each repetition, with a slightly longer pause when switching from the first to the second text. Directly after these last two minutes have passed, the whole group yells into the air the final word or phrase that they had just performed, closing the whole.