

On the Line

Reckless Sleepers

Conceived by Leentje Van De Cruys for Reckless Sleepers

On the line.

Is a proposal for a new performance project from Reckless Sleepers, conceived by Leentje Van De Cruys in 2019. The premise is simple, a line is drawn between one architectural opening and another, in interior spaces doors or windows, outside gaps between buildings, or archways. The line could be drawn from one door of a building to another entrance and exit. The straight line the most direct route from one of these gateways to another.

The performance line can become a meeting point, a queue, a file of people waiting to enter a night club, board a mode of transport, to fly off to a warmer destination. It can be many things, many different scenarios, some that we recognise, some more generic, some more politicised, some funny, sad...

The line does not move, it is a non - negotiable space, We the performers have to stay on it, we can't deviate away from its path, we have to stick to it or the game is over.

Like walking on the cracks in a pavement or jumping from one white space of a zebra crossing to another. The game is simple, we've all played it, and some of us continue to do so.

The Line is no wider than 50cm. just enough space to pass by another , to place a chair, a ladder, or a pram.

It's no higher than 50cm. Just enough space to fall, to be caught, to lift it from the safety of the pavement or road.

It crosses through buildings, courtyards, through borders that divide countries, through shared spaces.

The project will be performative, it will use a range of hand held objects, a variety of costumes and a continuous musical soundtrack.

We're proposing this project within a time of extreme social and political polarity, between one side and the other, between one house and the next, one tribe and another group.

When those groups meet, a tension exists, one side dominant, one side louder.

Based on a simple set of rules, a simple architectural framework "On the line" proposes a development phase to work out what we can do with this simple set of instructions, and simple set of rules.

This is how we work, we set up the parameters and then test how this might work, initially indoors within the warmth and safety of a studio, with a team of experienced performance devisers, choreographers, designers and directors.

Eventually to test if we can present in different spaces, for the different contexts were we've recently presented before.

We want to build a wall...we want to create a massive balance beam, a tightrope and through a process of rigorous examination find out what those scenarios, situations, images could be, how can we pass, what can we negotiate, how do we climb on and through each other....





Reckless Sleepers is a group of 12 independent artists who get together every now and then to create work.

Every now and then we create a new piece of work that we get asked to present again.
 Sometimes this is inside a theatre or gallery.
 Sometimes this is outside...

Many of the company projects have been initiated within a creative residency such as an extended workshop or university programme where it's possible to test, research, or find new projects within a relatively safe environment. Some of these then progress into realised company pieces.

On the line is one of these projects that was born out of a University Residency, the next stage for this projects life is to test the project with a dedicated team of Reckless Sleepers performers and devisors.

All of Reckless Sleepers projects start with a desire to find, to learn, to present something new. We always start from scratch, normally out of a conversation, sometimes immediately after a show, or during the devising of another project, but always out of a simple performative impulse that is shared within the group.

Out of this impulse we start to test the idea and from this testing generate a new form, once established this from creates the performative logic / choreographic rules and basis of the new project.

We advance to find / develop a unique language for each project that we produce, and we consciously push ourselves to establish something "other" than or avoid what we've produced before.

On the line proposes a first project to be led and conceived by Leentje Van De Cruys for Reckless Sleepers.

It proposes to develop a project with "outdoors" in mind (rather than an adaptation of an existing gallery or theatre piece).

The openness in Reckless Sleepers working practice allows the company of Artists to develop new approaches to what it is we will present. We don't know where the journey of a project will take us, and true to R&D we allow this process of true investigation to take place.

What we do propose (which is consistent within the work of RS) is a considered spatial arrangement or framework within or which we can play with, within, on, this physical structure liberates us, it gives us a space to play (albeit in this case a very thin and long one)

Sometimes objects or materials provide the stimulus for us to develop a project (Negative Space Plasterboard and Hammers) in Negative Space we didn't set out to destroy a plasterboard room...we found the material and allowed it to become an essential element to the project.