

Exploring Festival Performance as a 'State of Encounter'.

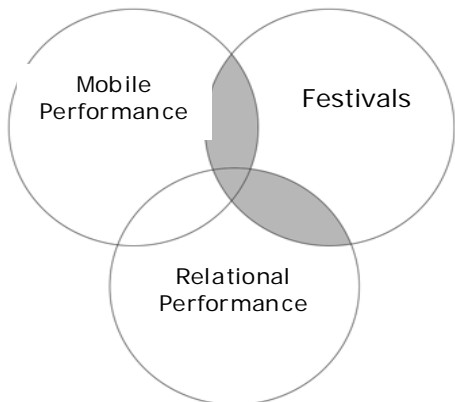
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OK, so you're at a music festival and it's a good twenty minute walk to the next stage to see the next band. As you walk, you pass a group of men dressed as smurfs, a stag do, probably, then you see another group, part businessman, part horse, doing a series of choreographed moves, dancing with the crowd, is it performance? You take a picture on your phone for your Flickr account, and text it to your big sister and your Dad - "chk ths out!" They've seen this kind of thing before.

"Relational performance" often happens adjacent to the main programming of bands and DJs and yet are integral to both the success of the festival and the way in which memories of the event are personalised and transmitted to others. These performances are often unannounced, informal and responsive to both the time and place in which they occur. They usually require public engagement to activate them and, as such, they provide an insight into audience/performer relations as well as notions of site-specificity and playful behaviour.



Facebook became an important source for collecting archival material; our group now has 400 members. Over 200 photos, and numerous stories have been uploaded.

BEYOND TEXT



Network Events

We held four events; the first and last were traditional seminars.

The second was a practice led workshop (below) and the third was a storytelling event (above).

A promotional banner for 'BEYOND TEXT'. It features the text: "A place to put your pictures, videos or stories about performers that surprised you, amazed you or interrupted your music festival". To the right is the 'BEYOND TEXT' logo, which consists of a grid of red and grey dots. Below the text is a red bar with white text: "Find us on Facebook: Groups > Festival Performance as a State of Encounter" and "twitter.com/djtheduchess".

