

## Macbethmachine

Performance event at The Institute for the Art and Practice of Dissent at Home for Winter Solstice, 21 Dec 2010  
An exploration of ambition, heteronormativity, coupling, violence and the failure of capitalism

SCHEDULE FOR Macbethmachine REHEARSALS between 23 Sep 2010 - 20 Dec 2010

<b>Protagonists</b>	<b>Audiences</b>	<b>Couple</b>	<b>Ben Lorena</b>	<b>Dan Penny</b>	<b>Gary Lena</b>	<b>Tim Britt</b>
<b>Room</b>	<b>Master Bedroom</b>	<b>Living Room</b>	<b>Dinning Room</b>	<b>Children's Room</b>		
Four Heterosexual Couples	Four Couples	Session 1	13/10/10 16:00	25/10/10 20:00	23/09/10 21:00	25/10/10 10:30
Ben Phillips Lorena Rivero de Beer	No couple No couple	Session 2	20/11/10 11:00 Lorena alone	06/12/10 11:00	07/10/10 20:45	04/11/10 09:00
Daniel Simpkins Penny Whitehead	Eleanor Rees	Session 3	21/11/10 16:00 together. Lorena alone.	12/12/10 12:00	23/10/10 45min 20:45 24/10/10 45min 21:15	24/11/10 10:00
Gary Anderson Lena Simic	Bryan Biggs Cathy Butterworth	Session 4	05/12/10 14:00	14/12/10 11:00	08/11/10 21:15	27/11/10 11:00
		Session 5	12/12/10 12:00	17/12/10 09:00	23/11/10 19:30	8/12 /10 worked from home
Tim Jeeves Britt Jurgensen	Elinor Randle Lorraine Nicholson	Session 6	18/12/10 13:30	20/12/10 10:00 worked from home	18/12/10 20:30	20/12/10 18:00
		<b>Performance</b>	21/12/10 13:30	21/12/10 13:00	21/12/10 13:30	21/12/10 13:30

Could you please let us know your preferred time for sessions. We are happy to leave you in the house on your own, or be in the house whilst you are having your sessions. You can also work in the night if this is necessary - we will arrange this beforehand. Usually, children go to sleep around 8:30pm, and parents got to sleep around 1am.

MORNING PERFORMANCES (for each other)

11 00	Tim/Britt perform for Dan/Penny Ben/Lorena perform for Gary/Lena
11 15	Gary/Lena perform for Tim/Britt Ben/Lorena perform for Dan/Penny
11 30	Dan/Penny perform for Gary/Lena Tim/Britt perform for Ben/Lorena
11 45	Gary/Lena perform for Ben/Lorena Dan/Penny perform for Tim/Britt
12 00	Tim/Britt perform for Gary/Lena Dan/Penny perform for Ben/Lorena
12 15	Ben/Lorena perform for Tim/Britt Gary/Lena perform for Dan/Penny

AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES (for external audiences of 4 couples)

<b>Performance</b>	13 30	13 45	14 00	14 15	14 30
					<b>Institute (all)</b>
<b>Living Room</b>	Dan/Penny TBC	Dan/Penny Bryan/Cathy	Dan/Penny Nick/Julie	Dan/Penny Elinor/Lorraine	
<b>Dinning Room</b>	Gary/Lena Bryan/Cathy	Gary/Lena Nick/Julie	Gary/Lena Elinor/Lorraine	Gary/Lena TBC	
<b>Master Bedroom</b>	Ben/Lorena Nick/Julie	Ben/Lorena/ Elinor/Lorraine	Ben/Lorena TBC	Ben/Lorena Bryan/Cathy	
<b>Children's Room</b>	Tim/Britt Elinor/Lorraine	Tim/Britt TBC	Tim/Britt Bryan/Cathy	Tim/Britt Nick/Julie	

Commission: **Macbethmachine**

**History:**

During the FIFA World Cup last summer, Gary and Lena wrote **Macbethmachine** (attached) after Shakespeare's **Macbeth** and Heiner Muller's **Hamletmachine**. In creating this performance text, we read 'Macbeth' closely, discussed it in depth, researched 'Hamletmachine' and Heiner Muller's work, thought about recent European history and the fall of communism. When writing we followed the structure of 'Hamletmachine' and its 5 scenes. All of our creative and discursive sessions were held in 90 minute sessions, in line with the then ongoing World Cup matches. 45 minutes play, a half time break, 45 minutes play. Full Time! Thematically we picked up on the failure of communism (in Muller's work) which translated into the failure of capitalism and its promise of freedom (in our text). We were intrigued by the notions of violence and heteronormativity (in Shakespeare's Macbeth and Lady Macbeth) as well as family life/childlessness. Capitalism, ambition, failure/success were further broad themes that we wanted to address through the writing. 'Macbethmachine' builds on the work we did through the Institute's project on **Miss Julie in Utopia** in 2008 (after August Strindberg's **Miss Julie**). In 'Miss Julie in Utopia' we worked closely with Cathy Butterworth and a little with Bryan Biggs and the performance took place during the summer solstice on 21 June 2008. In a sense this is the sequel.

**Present:**

The autumn equinox takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, in 2 days time. This will be the first day of autumn. The beginning of the process. We wish to commission you to produce a short performance loosely based on our performance text **Macbethmachine** for 21 December 2010 – winter solstice. You have 3 months.

**Future:**

The 4 performances by 4 couples (which includes Gary and Lena) will take place at the Institute on 21 December 2010. You need to be available for this day.

**Strict Rules for the Commission:**

The performances must be developed through the medium of **heterosexual couples** (Ben and Lorena, Dan and Penny, Tim and Britt, Gary and Lena). We are interested to further explore the notion of violence as it exists through 'coupling'.

- You must work on the premises of 7 Bright Street in one of these four rooms: living room, dinning room, master bedroom, children's bedroom. You can express your preference for the room but must work in the one which will be allocated to you. When working/rehearsing in the room you must **keep the door closed behind you**.
- You can use text from **Macbethmachine** or Shakespeare's **Macbeth** in any way/form/order you want. You should address the themes of failure of capitalism, [heteronormative] violence, illusion of freedom and ambition.
- You must work on this commission in **7 sessions**, 6 of which would be 90 minutes long and the last, the 7<sup>th</sup> one, would be a performance. The structure for 7 sessions and 90 minutes comes from 7 matches that the winner of the World Cup must play and win. We must agree on your working schedule for the first 6 sessions.
- **The final performance will be performed in your couple in your room with the door closed.** The performance will be viewed by other performers-couples and members of audience, also in couples. We are anticipating a scene of some **5-10 minutes**, which will need to be repeated throughout your first 45 minutes of the session, but can also be durational for the whole 45 minutes period, if you wish.
- **On this day you will have to see the other 3 performances by other couples as well.**
- **The remaining 45 minutes of your session will be spent in the Institute with all 8 performers** creating something together – having just seen each other's performances for the first time.
- You will be paid **£62.26 each** – this sum is derived from 10.5 hours work (7 x 90 minutes sessions) x £5.93 (minimum wage). Additionally you will get Xmas bonus of **£30 each**. This makes **your total sum £93.26 each**. You will receive this sum immediately after the performance on 21 December 2010.

Could you please let us know ASAP (**by 23 September** would be ideal) if you would like to participate in this project, including a list of preferences for the rooms (1 most desirable, 4 least desirable) and a preliminary schedule for your 6 sessions.

We look forward to having you behind the closed doors of 7 Bright Street.

Lena and Gary

**'As an intellectual you belong at last to the middle class; as soon as you even make the beginnings of a career, as you have some success, you belong to the establishment you fight against. You get into the establishment by fighting it; as a writer of literature, for instance, there is no other way to join it, I believe. But then you're 'in' and live in the dilemma that you belong, yet don't like it [don't like it, don't like it – in Sid's voice]. And it's quite typical here that once very good authors have written a bestseller, their tragedy of success begins; people are ground down by success.'** Heiner Muller

**Macbethmachine** - Text for Performancefirst written during World Cup 2010, edited during rehearsal process 23 Sep - 20 Dec**1. FAMILY ALBUM**

*Macbeth/Lady Macbeth*: I am Mrs Macbeth, not 'lady'. I went back into the room of the king with the daggers in my hand and whispered in Duncan's ear - it was still warm, he was moaning weakly, just about to go - 'When she walks through your bedroom with butcher's knives, you'll know the truth.' There's a pleasure in letting people know things. My sons, all three of them, watched me do it. I let them. I want them to know. Now they have a head start in life. But privilege isn't everything, to be privileged is nothing, but to be safely privileged! My husband thinks he's clever, he's forever reading how to undermine others with words, words, words, then I put the daggers in his hands. He moved from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer to Principal Lecturer to Reader to Professor in a matter of hours. They'll be others to take your place. The line stretches out till the crack of doom. He mumbled something about washing his hands of it all. That shite about not being able to wash the blood off - that was all make-believe - just to make sure the men knew they were in charge. Every time I played that scene I'd come off stage FURIOUS demanding a rewrite. THERE'S A SPECTRE HAUNTING him, Banquo's snow-white eyes like Minerva's, sightless, gawping, giftless: PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, GET OVER IT, CHEER UP! The bells sound, CHAAAANG, the wall falls, CHAAAANG, the till's ching, CHAAAANG and the spectre disappears. The new homeless take up their places in the back door entrances of newly opened chainstores CHAAAANG - hear it not, husband for it is the bell that summons thee...

When opportunity comes, don't knock it! It is my right to have the freedom to own a property on Eldred Road (£235,000) or Towers Road (evening and weekend viewing only £285,000) or a 3 bedroom on Highville Road or a big garden on Harthill Avenue, or Mossville Close, Pitville Avenue, Heatherdale Road (all just under £200,000), or the detached Edale Road, a bargain at £249, 950 just next to TESCO in Allerton, all on the market NOW. Being realistic, we're moving to a new castle - the kids can't play in Glamis the other kids are too rough, Cawdor's got no local amenities and we have a right to a 4 bedroomed semi-detached with a large back garden. We're both FULL TIME for God's sake. Duncan's place is not all it's cracked up to be. There's some structural damage and there's a terrible draft blowing. There's a bird stuck in between the walls, must have fallen out of its nest up in the cockloft. At night you can hear it squeak and walk about, tap tap tapping on the wall. He says it'll stop in a few days. He still can't sleep at night.

*BREAKDOWN 1 improvised conversation on 11+ tests*

We must begin before the beginning. The path to success is clear - those who can see it walk it. Today has been cancelled, called off and replacements are to be brought in. The only direction is forward - no lingering, no browsing, buy what you want and get out of the shop quick. There's no walls anymore. All the walls are down - you can tell by the 'beep beep beep' of trucks reversing to offload their stock in unison with the beep beep beep of the tills as they scan your meats and plastics 'beep beep beep'. Let's take that castle on Edale Road - early morning we'd be infused with the truth, the rhythm of new products arriving in trucks to go on shelves to go off shelves into bellies and bins. To be replaced, replaced and replaced like a line of plastic packaged products stretching out until the crack of doom. My Thane of Edale Road.

**2. ERASURE***In front of the empty walls of the Institute*

*Fleance (as if talking from the future)*: I remember a red shirt, something to do with revolution and communism. I remember a badge FREE PALESTINE, red, black, green and white. I remember a plastic bottle of water blu-tacked to the South-East corner of the Institute wall, towards Mecca - with a story inside the plastic bottle. A witness account of the murder of the innocents - notes left over by an activist from the FREE GAZA movement. *Possibly read this*. I remember a plaque saying PERFORM A MOMENT OF FREEDOM in red, yellow and green. I remember the Guardian poster of British prime ministers, from Sir Robert Walpole to Gordon Brown ... *further material here...* An artist from Bulgaria/USA visited in early June and added a Cameron-Cleggs clone to finish the line (till the crack of doom). I remember postcards, some like vaginas, some like penises. I remember an old woman, with grey hair trying to get out of a sea shell. Hecate.

I remember bus tickets for 17 people who later on squeezed into the Institute. I remember a postcard with words, a text that needed decoding, a propaganda pamphlet from MISS JULIE IN UTOPIA, a dangling thing about war from a performance artist from Denmark - a woman soldier. A woman unsexing herself. A photograph of my Goddaughter with my children one two three. A note telling me to read Mierle Laderman Ukeles, and then the quote in my head: After the revolution, who's going to pick up the garbage on Monday morning?

### 3. SCHERZO/FAILURE

*Lady Macbeth breastfeeding Fleance.*

*Macbeth with blooded hands - rubbing the hands.*

*Banquo licking the blood off Macbeth's hands. Using baby wipes.*

*Three Weird Sisters distributing snow balls amongst the audiences.*

*Football results are announced via megaphone (random reading):*

BREAKDOWN 2: conversation on exceptional people over mediocrity

#### Group stages

##### Friday June 11, 2010

South Africa 1 - Mexico 1  
Uruguay 0 - France 0

##### Saturday June 12, 2010

South Korea 2 - Greece 0  
Argentina 1 - Nigeria 0  
England 1 - USA 1

##### Sunday, June 13, 2010

Algeria 0 - Slovenia 1  
Serbia 0 - Ghana 1  
Germany 4 - Australia 0

##### Monday, June 14, 2010

Netherlands 2 - Denmark 0  
Japan 1 - Cameroon 0  
Italy 1 - Paraguay 1

##### Tuesday, June 15, 2010

New Zealand 1 - Slovakia 1  
Ivory Coast 0 - Portugal 0  
Brazil 2 - North Korea 1

##### Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Honduras 0 - Chile 1  
Spain 0 - Switzerland 1  
South Africa 0 - Uruguay 3

##### Thursday, June 17, 2010

Argentina 4 - South Korea 1  
Greece 2 - Nigeria 1  
France 0 - Mexico 2

##### Friday, June 18, 2010

Germany 0 - Serbia 1  
Slovenia 2 - USA 2  
England 0 - Algeria 0

##### Saturday, June 19, 2010

Netherlands 1 - Japan 0  
Ghana 1 - Australia 1  
Cameroon 1 - Denmark 2

##### Sunday June 20, 2010

Slovakia 0 - Paraguay 2  
Italy 1 - New Zealand 1  
Brazil 3 - Ivory Coast 1

##### Monday June 21, 2010

Portugal 7 - North Korea 0  
Chile 1 - Switzerland 0  
Spain 2 - Honduras 0

##### Tuesday June 22, 2010

Mexico 0 - Uruguay 1  
France 1 - South Africa 2  
Nigeria 2 - South Korea 2  
Greece 0 - Argentina 2

##### Wednesday June 23, 2010

Slovenia 0 - England 1  
United States 1 - Algeria 0  
Ghana 0 - Germany 1  
Australia 2 - Serbia 1

##### Thursday June 24, 2010

Slovakia 3 - Italy 2  
Paraguay 0 - New Zealand 0  
Denmark 1 - Japan 3  
Cameroon 1 - Netherlands 2

##### Friday June 25, 2010

Portugal 0 - Brazil 0  
North Korea 0 - Ivory Coast 3  
Switzerland 0 - Honduras 0  
Chile 1 - Spain 2

#### Round of 16

##### Saturday June 26, 2010

Uruguay 2 - South Korea 1  
United States 1 - Ghana 2

##### Sunday June 27, 2010

Germany 4 - England 1  
Argentina 3 - Mexico 1

##### Monday June 28, 2010

Netherlands 2 - Slovakia 1  
Brazil 3 - Chile 0

##### Tuesday June 29, 2010

Paraguay 0 - Japan 0,  
Paraguay win on penalties 5 - 3  
Spain 1 - Portugal 0

#### Quarterfinal

##### Friday July 2, 2010

Netherlands 2 - Brazil 1  
Uruguay 1 - Ghana 1,  
Uruguay win on penalties 4 - 2

##### Saturday July 3, 2010

Argentina 0 - Germany 4  
Paraguay 0 - Spain 1

#### Semifinal

##### Tuesday July 6, 2010

Uruguay 2 - Netherlands 3

##### Wednesday July 7, 2010

Germany 0 - Spain 1

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

##### Saturday July 10, 2010

Uruguay 2 - Germany 3

#### Final

##### Sunday July 11, 2010

Netherlands 0 - Spain 1  
in Soccer City Johannesburg

#### 4. INDUSTRIOUS SOLDIERSHIP

*Macbeth/Lady Macbeth (with the help of Banquo and Three Weird Sisters):*

Fear not, till Birnam Wood

Do come to Dunsinane; and now a wood

Comes towards Dunsinane.

Open the gates, let the flooding begin. The people are gathered, they are pouring in. The freedom seekers, the freedom fighters, the liberty lovers, the great army of the new bourgeoisie. They will have it all, the ones that fear not to fall, one by one.

1989 The Velvet Revolution. Czechoslovakia is to be divided in two (later on in 1993); 'Romania was the only Eastern Bloc country to overthrow its government forcefully or to execute its leaders' (wiki says), late December in 1989 the Extraordinary Military Tribunal is formed, the trial is held. Christmas day, death sentences are given to the couple. Paratroopers with their service guns: Elena and Nicolae Ceausescu are dead. 1991 the USSR is gone, we have a multitude instead: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. Yugoslavia was chopped up into eight separate countries, a long and bloody Balkan affair, between 1991 and 1995.

Hungary had its free elections in March, 1990. In 2006 George W Bush remembered the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. He speaks from Gellért Hill during the commemoration:

From this spot you could see tens of thousands of students and workers and other Hungarians marching through the streets. They called for an end to dictatorship, to censorship, and to the secret police. They called for free elections, a free press, and the release of political prisoners. These Hungarian patriots tore down the statue of Josef Stalin, and defied an empire to proclaim their liberty.

Poland - the Solidarnost candidate is elected in 1990. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 1989, the Bulgarian Communist Party gave up its political monopoly. All is fine. Eastern Europe is thriving. East and West Germany are united. FREEEEEEEEEEDOM!

Much later on we hear of some Chechnya troubles - something to do with theatre and terrorism - such barbarism over there, far away... but this was in 2002, the terrorist era, beyond the utopianism of the liberal democracy of the 1990s. The new millennium was to bring trouble, strange things... by the ticking of my bombs something wicked this way comes. *Macbeth language needed here* ... women suicide bombers  
Tick tock - it's time to go! Would you plant a bomb? A woman terrorist?!  
At which point do you say 'enough'? Sleep no more...

BREAKDOWN 3: conversation about nervous breakdown being an intervention into the work ethic (ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, haa!)

Let us recall the giant leap into freedom after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Let us recall the fantastic spread of liberal democracy throughout Europe.

FIFA - the most inclusive organization in the world, 208 member associations, the UN counts a meagre 192.

England 1 Germany 4 ha ha ha.

....

2010 and the European World Cup Final, again. European nations one two three in South Africa 2010

Fortress Europe - you've done well

All hail!

The Schengen Agreement - you are well

All hail!

EU - may you prosper

All hail!

*Great European philosophers speak:*

Derrida: In my opinion, the most 'free' thought is one that is constantly coming to terms with the effects of the machine. That's why I rarely use the word 'freedom'.

Satre: We are condemned to be free.

Hegel: No idea is so generally recognized as indefinite, ambiguous and open to the great misconceptions (to which therefore it actually falls a victim) as the idea of Freedom, none in common currency with so little appreciation of its meaning.

Derrida: Between the machinelike and the non-machine, then, there is a complex relation at work that is not a simple opposition. We can call it freedom, but only beginning at the moment when there is something incalculable. ... *the other* always responds, by definition, to the name and the figure of the *incalculable*. No brain, nor neurological analysis, however exhaustive it's supposed to be, can render the encounter with the other. The coming of the other, *l'arrivance de l'arrivant* - the "arriving-ness" of the arrival - this is *what happens*, this is the one *who or which arrives* as an unforeseen event.

9 Nov 1989 The Fall of the Berlin Wall

It was to be expected. After all those years of brutal communist regimes.

Freedom reigns over the former Eastern Bloc.

Because work makes you free. The fall of the wall. The flight of the ball. Rooney allowed to roam free on the left. Gerrard roaming free on the right?

On 12 June, 1987 at 2pm at the Brandenburg Gate, protected by two thick panes of bulletproof glass some old movie star, with help from his wife, with the daggers in her hands, said:

We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace.

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace... if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!... This wall cannot withstand freedom.

If you google the phrase The Fall of the Berlin Wall – you get 1,470,000 results in 0.17 seconds. If you google it with the word freedom in you get Barack Obama saying about the fall of the Berlin wall that 'there could be no stronger affirmation of Freedom'.

5.

*Children's choir: Flenace is joined by Malcolm, Donalbaine, Young Siward, Boy (son of Macduff)*

A prophet once said: I would like to stage MACBETH on the top of the World Trade Center for an audience in helicopters.

Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and Banquo were amongst the victims.

*Flenace (like Macbeth, with the help of the children):*

Macbeth is the machine. Macbeth is the machine.

There is nowhere to hide now. The future is at hand – and yet the future has not happened yet.

We are becoming it, the machine.

Macbeth, Macbeth, Machinelike

All hail!

Macbeth, Machinelike, Macbeth

All hail!

Thou shall be hereafter.

Forever hereafter.

I am a Machine. They tried to overthrow me by some pure white snowballs in February 2009. They staged a fight against me. I was well protected by the taxpayers bank – RBS's bullet proof glass and my laughter. Forever hereafter. The Machine.

*Three Weird Sisters serve the Witches' brew in cauldron.*

*NOTE: Each scene is prefaced by*

**Macbeth**

If we should fail?

**Lady Macbeth**

*We fail!*

*But screw your courage to the sticking-place,*

*And we'll not fail.*