

Random Line Performance Company

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Kelly Marie Hinks

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Kelly is the audio visual team leader for Random Line Performance Company. She is a core member and has developed considerably over the five years involvement in the company programme. As such she is responsible for the live audio visual projections performed as part of a busy performance, installation and workshop programme. Kelly is able to develop and manipulate live audio visual instruments, create new video/animations and understands how these will work within the context of performances. The role also includes organising and leading a team of three people together with developing the technical skills to enable her to provide the ever increasing complexity of projection, image and sound required by the company.

Kelly joined Random Line Performance Company in September 2005. She had been attending a women's group run by 'Building Blocks' in Mansfield where she met a member of Random Line. Conversations often mentioned the company's activities and Kelly was encouraged to try it out.

At the time Random Line promoted a series of open workshops entitled 'Concept'. These were run and developed by company members and involved physical improvisation in a sensory visual/aural environment. This was Kelly first involvement in an arts project – it was very different to what she had expected and although she very much enjoyed the experience Kelly found it difficult - she felt nervous and 'out of her comfort zone' However, members of the company seemed 'very nice and friendly' and more to the point she achieved something and was able to feel praised for doing so.

Since leaving school at the age of 16 Kelly had not been involved in any formal social activity and had not completed a full training course. Her home was in an isolated location, even the walk to the nearest road took over 30 minutes. Kelly found social interaction very difficult and suffered several bouts of severe depression. Opting out was easy and a severe lack of self esteem dominated every part of her life. Becoming an audio visual artist was never a thought - it was

something she had never even heard of, let alone felt compelled to try. She had enjoyed the Random Line 'experience' and felt that it may be worth trying to attend.

Progress was not quick as much work was needed to boost her self confidence. She took part in warm up activities, but often felt the need to hide when it came to physical improvisation, movement and voice exercises. It would have been easy at this point to destroy her fragile confidence yet she also needed challenging to achieve. A balance needed to be found.

The initial breakthrough came as a part of a production entitled 'Forbidden Fruit'. Kelly performed as a musician, playing glasses tuned with varying levels of water. The role was not purely musical as she was required to start the piece by entering the stage playing a single glass and making her way slowly to her performance position, which throughout the piece was in full view of the audience. Kelly valued this experience, realising that she could perform in public and that it felt good to be a part of an artistic team. It was clear that Kelly had skills that were unique within the company. She was the only member of the company who could play a glass instrument, understand how to create different sounds and use technology to manipulate and transform these. By rubbing across the glass she could create harmonics and these could be combined to good effect with the pure tones generated by rubbing around the rims. Kelly had found a distinct role within the company and realised that it had as much value as any of the other performers.

From this point Kelly developed rapidly. Confidence increased steadily over the years as she has developed her own way of performing and increased the technical knowledge required. Depression has not left, but she is better able to cope and feels that through the artistic process she has been able to find a valuable and much valued role. Her CV is now impressive. Kelly has performed with Jo Wiley and created a solo sound and video piece which she has performed in London, and across the East Midlands. Kelly will lead the visual team creating visuals for the closing ceremony for the Special Olympics in Leicester and the Aurora projections at Rufford Abbey in December. In addition, she is currently creating material for the new national touring productions 'Second Skin' which will open at Derby Dance in November 2009.

Without involvement in an arts project non of this would have been possible or even conceivable. The Random Line programme demands commitment and hard work and like many arts based projects it presents new challenges in a supportive and creative environment. As a result Kelly has been able to achieve on her own terms and has gained considerable recognition for doing so.