



CALL FOR PAPERS - 2010 Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium

University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
September 8-10, 2010

IMPROVISING BODIES

The Guelph Jazz Festival, in conjunction with the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, the University of Guelph, and the SSHRC MCRI research project on "Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice," invites proposals for papers to be presented at our annual three-day international interdisciplinary conference. This year's colloquium will take place September 8th to 10th as part of the 17th annual Guelph Jazz Festival (September 8-12). It will bring together a diverse range of scholars, creative practitioners, arts presenters, policy makers, and members of the general public. Featuring workshops, panel discussions, keynote lectures, performances, and dialogues among researchers, artists, and audiences, the annual colloquium cuts across a range of social and institutional locations and promotes a dynamic international exchange of cultural forms and knowledges. This year's colloquium will also take place on the heels of our two week Summer Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation at the University of Guelph (www.improvcommunity.ca/summerinstitute).

Improvisation studies and studies of embodiment (from fields such as gender studies, disability studies, queer theory, and dance studies) have much to offer each other, yet these spheres often function independently and rarely in a way that accounts for the nuances of their complementary intersections. This year's colloquium will focus on the body as a site for the analysis of new perspectives, new methodologies, new artistic and cultural practices. As a category of analysis, the improvising body opens up several vital areas of inquiry in theoretical and historical musicology, ethnomusicology, philosophy,

performance studies, literary studies, women's studies, media studies, jazz studies, and work on cultural memory and memorialization. We invite papers that draw on these areas of inquiry, as well as research with particular interests in disability studies, mobility and access in public spaces, postcolonial theory, performance studies, queer theory, theories of race and ethnicity, feminist theories of embodiment, the economic crisis, and dance studies.

What is a body, what is an improvising body, how do bodies improvise or are they improvised, and how does improvisation contribute to new thinking on bodies and embodiment? What does improvisation do for bodies not rendered "legitimate" or "legible" by social constructions of whole (normal) bodies? What improvising body practices/technologies resist hierarchical systems based on notions of whose bodies count, whose bodies are unruly, whose bodies are deficient/excessive? What kinds of community-practices improvise bodies in critical ways and how and what can we learn from them? Which bodies are thought of as not improvised, but pre-composed, and what does a framework of improvising bodies as process have to say to that?

We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary work that speaks to both an academic audience and a general public. We also invite presenters to submit completed versions of their papers to our peer-reviewed journal, Critical Studies in Improvisation/ Études critiques en improvisation (www.criticalimprov.com) for consideration.

Please send (500 word) proposals or completed papers (for 15 minute delivery) and a short bio by
May 31, 2010 to

The 2010 Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium
c/o Dr. Ajay Heble, Artistic Director, The Guelph Jazz Festival
email: jazzcoll@uoguelph.ca