e-Dance

Relocating Choreographic Process:

The Impact of Collaborative Memory and Grid Technologies on Practice-led Research in Dance

EPSRC

JISC

Helen Bailey, Artistic Director Ersatz Dance
Principal Lecturer in Dance
University of Bedfordshire, UK

e-Dance introduction

An introduction and overview of the **RCP/e-Dance** project

- The research context
- Methodology
- Anticipated activities and outcomes
- Resources

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e-Dance introduction

The ***RCP/e-Dance*** project:

- a collaborative interdisciplinary research project
- dance and e-Science
- Funded by an AHRC-EPSRC-JISC e-Science grant
- Two-year project Sept 2007 – Sept 2009
- Partner institutions are Universities of Bedfordshire, Leeds, Manchester and the Open University

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e-Dance introduction

RCP/e-Dance research collaborators are:

- Principal Investigator: **Helen Bailey**
  (Department of Performing Arts & English, University of Bedfordshire)
- Co-Investigators: **Simon Buckingham-Shum**
  (Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University)
  Michael Daw
  (Manchester Computing, University of Manchester)
  Sita Popat
  (School of Performing Arts & Cultural Industries, University of Leeds)
  Martin Turner
  (Manchester Computing, University of Manchester)

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e-Dance research context

- Professional arts and practice-led research
- Interdisciplinary Choreography
- Use of technology in performance
- Virtual Research Environments
- Documentation of practice-led research

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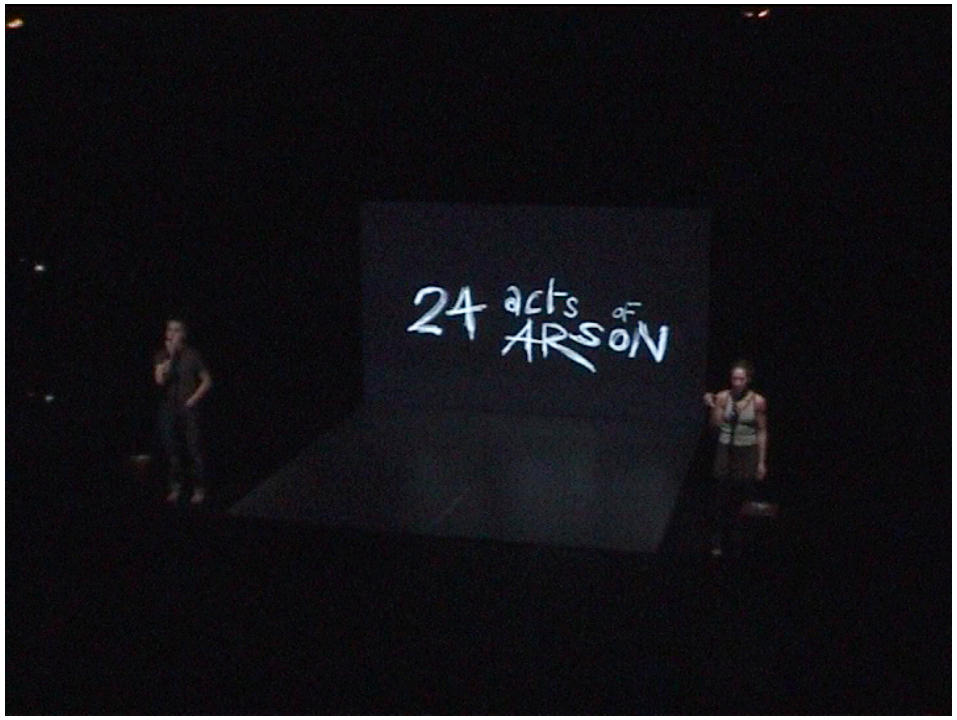
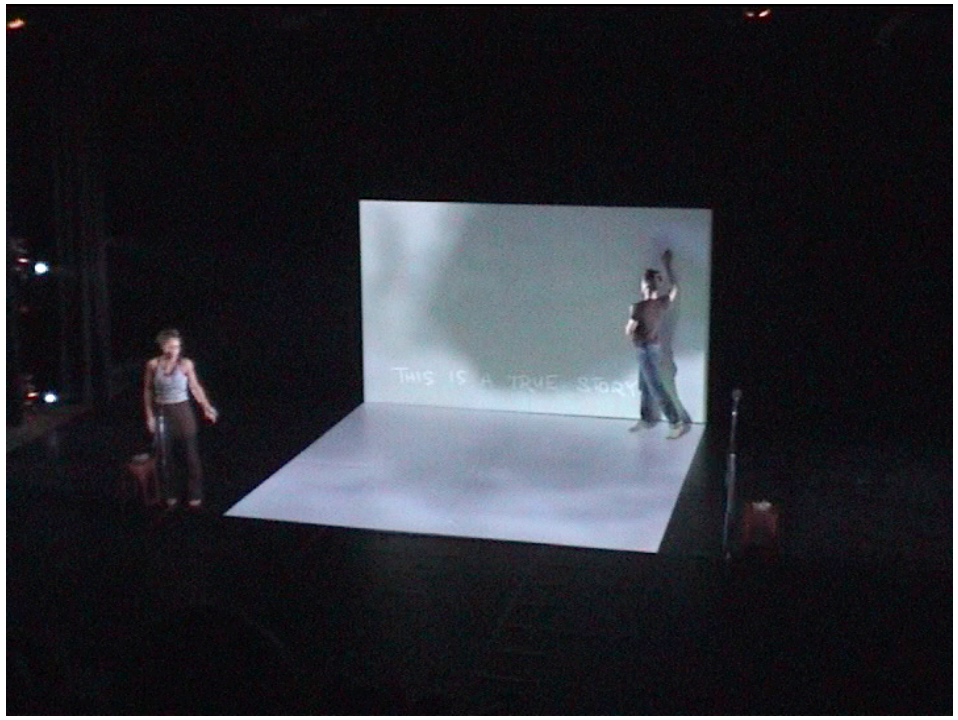
ersatz dance & digital performance

24 Acts of Arson (2002)





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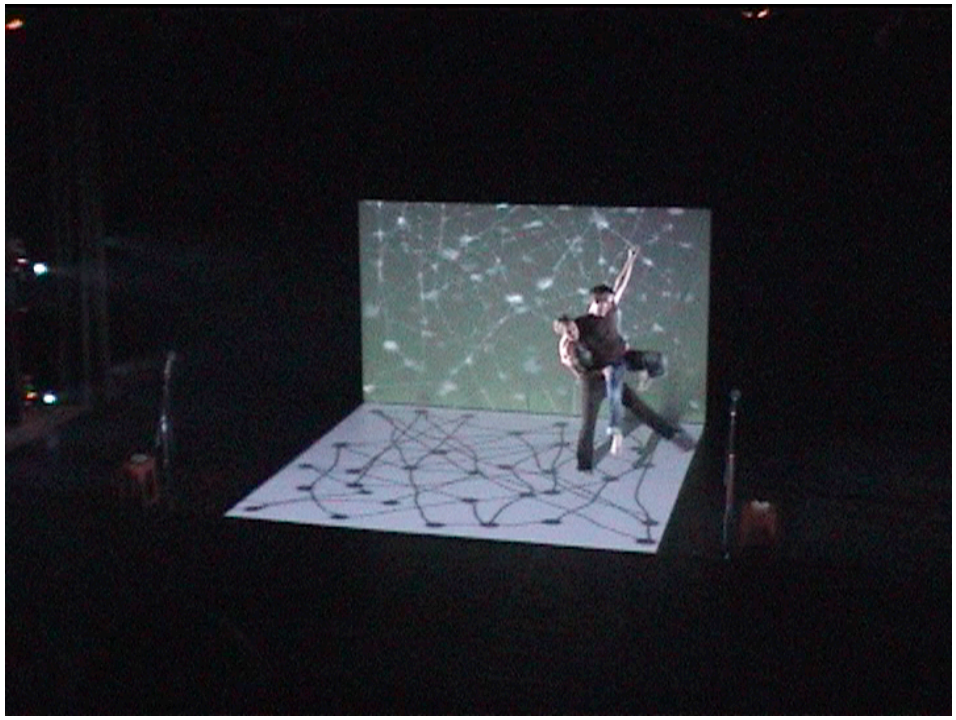

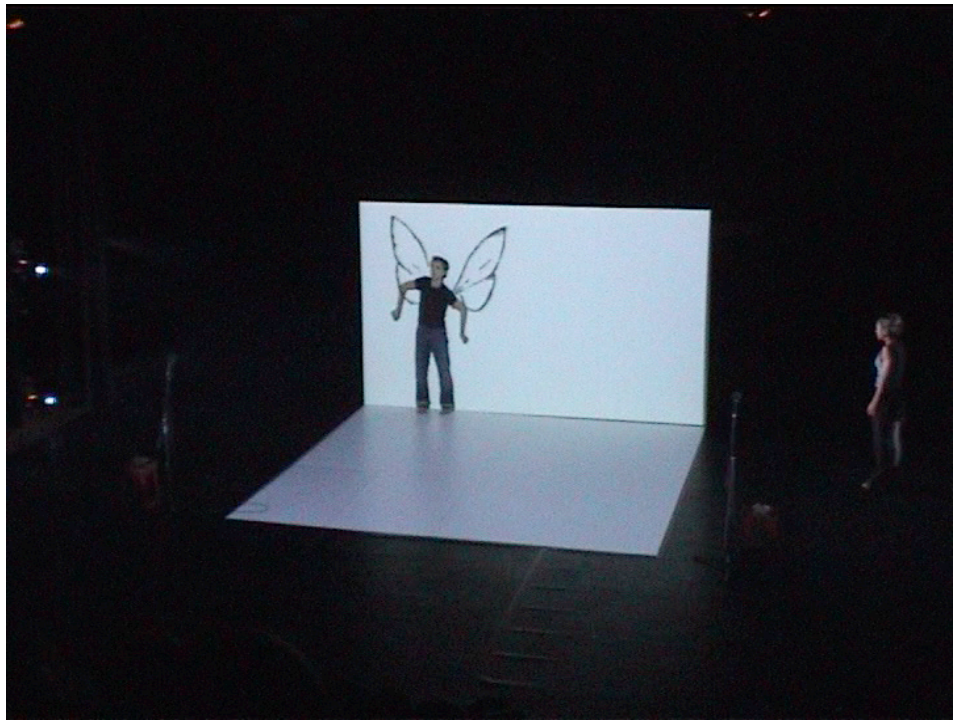

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A Part/In Parts (2006)

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ersatz dancing in virtual environments

DIRAViS (2004) Dancing in Real and Virtual Spaces

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ersatz dancing in virtual environments

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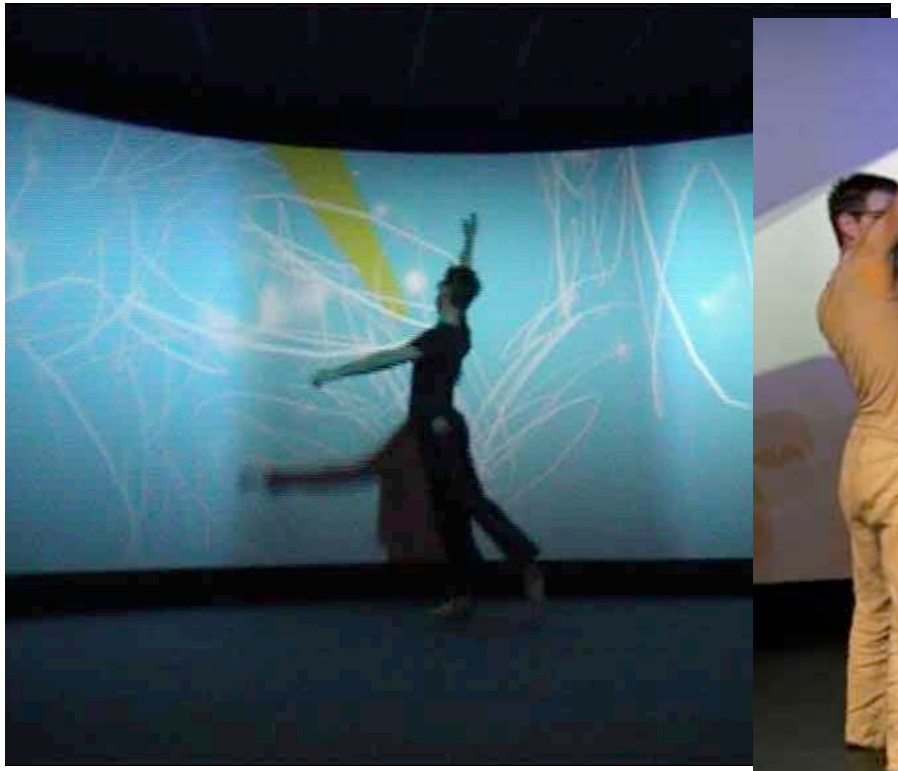

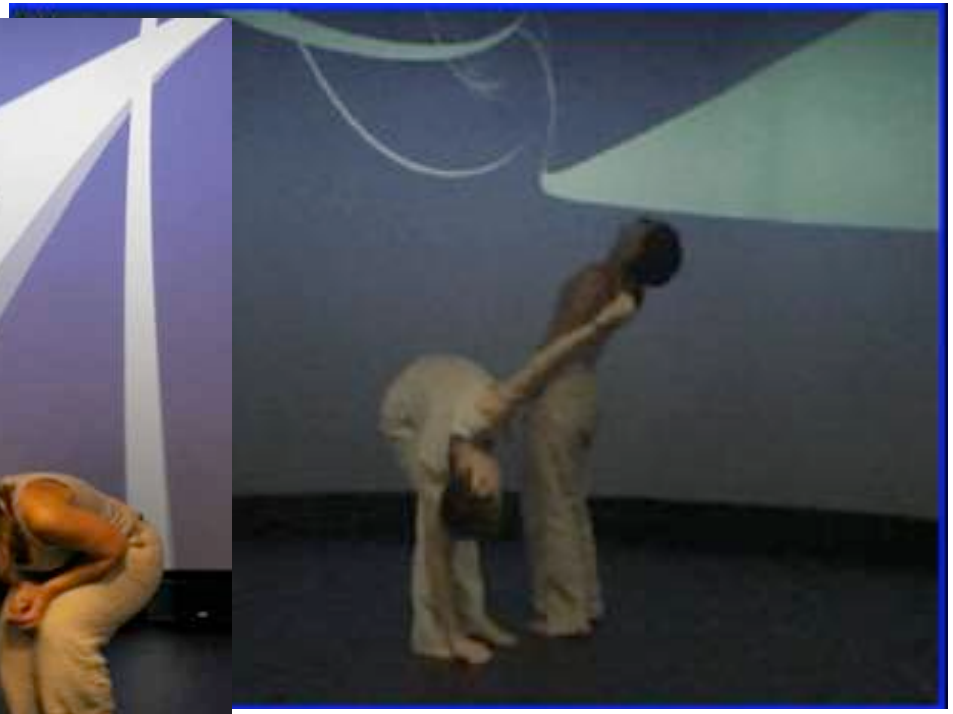

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ersatz dancing in virtual environments

DIRAViS (2004) Dancing in Real and Virtual Spaces

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Stereobodies (2006)

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Stereobodies (2006)

- Part of CSAGE (Collaborative Stereoscopic Access Grid Environment) project at University of Manchester
- Virtual Research Environment
- Development of compositional approaches
- Virtual embodiment

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e-Dance and distributed choreography

Access Grid node at University of Manchester

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Rehearsal of ***Stereobodies*** (2006), a distributed performance event

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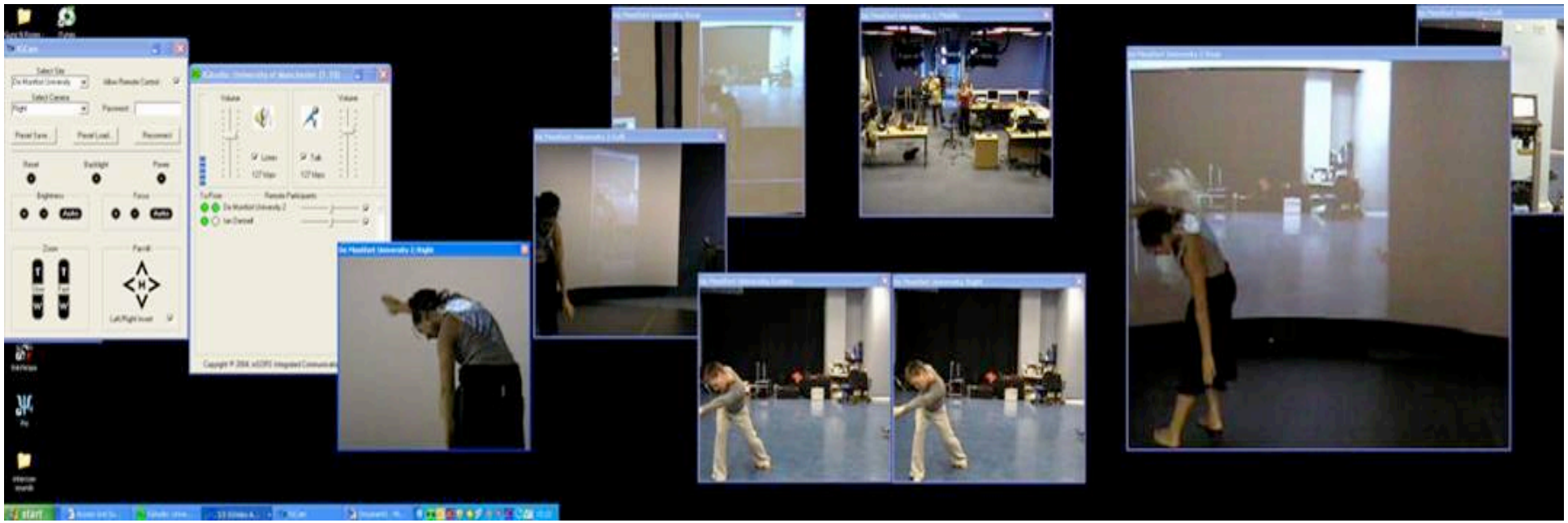
Stereobodies (2006) distributed Access Grid performance event



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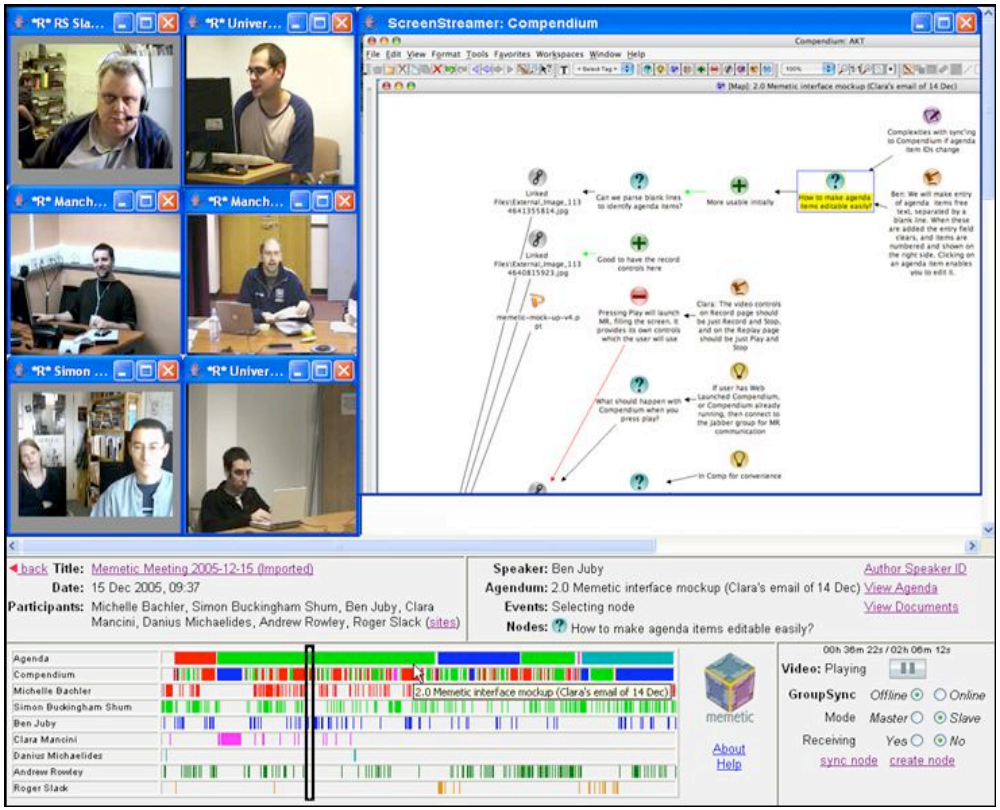
e-Dance and distributed choreography

- MEMETIC

  Access Grid memory tool

- COMPENDIUM

  Concept/dialogue mapping tool



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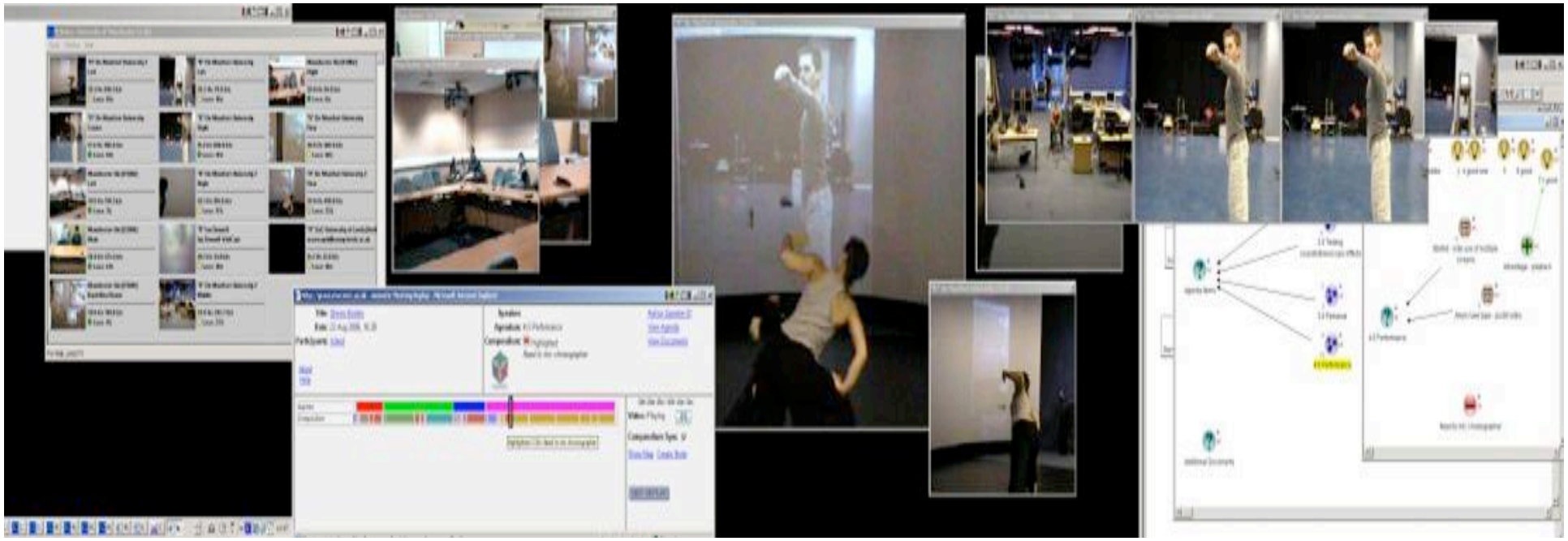
e-Dance and distributed choreography

Grid-based tools used to annotate and document ***Stereobodies***



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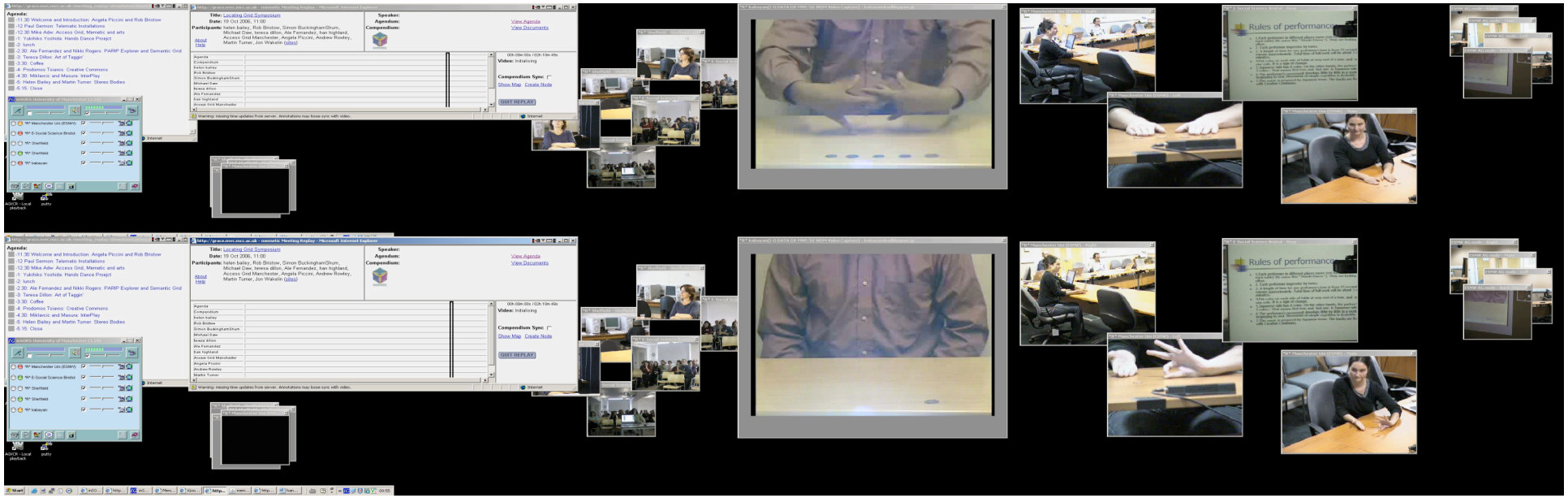
e-Dance and distributed choreography

Hands Dance improvised performance with Yukiko Yoshido (ADaPT) at AHRC e-Science Locating Grid Technologies Symposium Bristol University, Oct 2006



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implications for practice-led e-Dance research

- Methodological development
- New compositional approaches
- Documentation and analysis of process
- Re-thinking the AG 'physical' environment
- Development of software

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research questions

- What unique opportunities does the distributed Access Grid environment provide for developing new approaches to choreographic composition and process and within this context how can we find new, appropriate and meaningful methodologies for capturing and modelling practice-led research?

- How can choreographic knowledge and sensibility help to shape e-Science practice to make its applications more usable within the field of performance arts practice-led research as well as the broader Arts and Humanities context?

research activities

Year 1 Research Intensives - themes and activities:

- **Relocating Choreographic Practice:**
  Explorations of the improvisational, compositional and performative challenges of the distributed AG environment for dance.

- **Mapping, Memory and Narrative:**
  Impact of e-Science tools on documenting the creative research process for dance.

- **Traces and Reiterations:**
  Re-use and mediation of documentation material in hybrid AG dance performance.

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research activities

Year 2 Research Intensives - themes and activities:

- **Distributed Choreographic Laboratory:**
  Dancer-collaborators working in individual, distributed contexts

- **Distributed Process and Performance**
  Intensive distributed collaboration to create performance outcome

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resources

- Distributed choreographic planning tool
- Portable video mapping studio
- Video bookmarking or tagging
- Enhancement of Screenstreamer
- Enhancement of Access Grid Video functionality
- Enhancements to AG software that will provide further interoperability with existing technologies such as ISADORA

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contact details

Helen Bailey
Helen.Bailey@beds.ac.uk

e-Dance website:
www.arts-humanities.net/e-dance

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