



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

17.10.2011 – Mandy Romero – Tranny Hotel

<http://11moments.org/tranny>

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

INTERVIEW #21: We are now meeting with Mandy Romero, a transgender artist and curator from Liverpool, United Kingdom. She will present her project „TRANNY HOTEL Liverpool“ as part of the Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival on 11/11/11. Hi Mandy, where are you at the moment?

Mandy Romero

I'm in my home-based office in Liverpool working on various projects, including "Tranny Hotel".

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

I'm curious about the other projects, too, but please tell us what TRANNY HOTEL is about?

Mandy Romero

"Tranny Hotel" will offer audiences in Liverpool a series of radical encounters with transgender performing artists in various unusual (and some more conventional) spaces in a hotel setting.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Can you give an example of the kind of transgender radical encounters? That sounds somehow nasty.

Mandy Romero

I hope that none of the radical encounters in the Festival will be nasty! Audiences will be able to commune with Jesus, Sigmund Freud, and various transgender incarnations as well as enjoying cabaret-style presentations from FTM and MTF and intersex performers from around Europe and beyond. Some encounters will have a personal one-to-one dimension – some will be spectacle, some will be pure entertainment.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Jesus and Freud ... that sounds promising ! But seriously, can you say a bit more about this one-to-one dimension. It seems to be something new in performance and performing art?



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

Mandy Romero

I'm not sure that one-to-ones are that new. Live Art has been changing the relationship between artists and others for a long time. Everything that diverts from an audience encountering art as something commodified is radical. But hotel rooms are intimate and Ane Lan from Norway will be meeting individual members of the audience in a hotel room for significant provocative consultations. I will be performing my new piece "The Blue Mountains" in my hotel room, but I will be having intimate audiences of about 10 people in with me. It all varies according to the artist.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Ok! How many artists will be performing or be present on the 11th of November at "Tranny Hotel Liverpool"?

Mandy Romero

On 11th, which is the first of three days of our event, we will have Thom Shaw offering Drag Mountain, and Sasha Selavie, La John Joseph, and Lazlo Pearlman will be performing with me that night. Jo Clifford and Regina Fiz (and her company) and Ane Lan will have arrived for the next day's performances. Other artists will arrive on the Saturday, There will be a lot of coming and going.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

And where can people get more information and tickets? What is the entrance fee?

Mandy Romero

We have a weekend pass which will cost £20 and it will offer entry to as many performances as we can accommodate, but we will be allowing people to buy tickets for individual performances on the day where we have spare audience capacity – at the Hotel, The Adelphi. The web-site for weekend passes is www.tranny-hotel.com
The full programme will be up on our Facebook page very soon now. The page is called "Tranny Hotel".

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

You are part of Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival, a festival which is not really visible at once, because it is spread over Europe on one day. What does that mean for you and for your approach to Live Art?



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

Mandy Romero

This kind of Festival is probably the future, or one of the futures, of live performance. It is "live" and not-live (distant) and available to the whole world through the internet. Even without the internet we have a sense of being part of something much bigger which is the spirit in which we must approach all encounters in this globalized world we live in, the world we must convene and collaborate to change or to protect and preserve. But the core of all performance is an actual event in real time with real people, however it is shared with others.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

I found your text about Exchange Radical Moments. It says: "The Festival is just a pretext for communication. And the possibility of silence." Can you explain this in one sentence?

Mandy Romero

Well, I don't remember that exact sentence, but all of our lives are about communication. We live in an age structured by communication and the systems by which it is possible. It is also therefore an age of noise. Michel Serres, the French philosopher, has many ideas about the "noise" which insinuates itself into contact, expression and communications. This is not always bad, and anyway inevitable, but if we want an encounter with ourselves and wish to avoid "interference" the thing we need is silence. That is the necessary rebuke to our compulsive need for contact. And it is our redemption as human beings.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

Apropos "redemption". Another question, and now, I guess I was lying when I said, before we started this interview, it will be easy questions.... But your last statement leads to another sentence in the same text which says: "Exchange was the anthropologists' nirvana, now it is our redemption." What could this mean for Exchange Radical Moments!?

Mandy Romero

Well, we have created in the Festival a celebration of all kinds of exchange. It will be a lexicon, an inventory, an encyclopaedia of exchanges. Levi Strauss and others began to analyse human societies and their values in terms of exchange but these were exchange patterns which already existed and societies which were often quite "primitive" (although actually very sophisticated). We are now creating encounters not just studying them. The Festival is innovatory because it makes the exchanges the focus. Art always has the power to be redemptive where moments reach beyond the present and into eternity. If we get the Festival right it will be a lattice through which we might glimpse our salvation as a species.



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

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I think we are through. We had the terms "exchange", "radical" and "moments". Or is something important missing? – What was a real radical moment that you experienced recently?

Mandy Romero

I must just say that I have created a blog of my work on "Tranny Hotel" and the Festival and I will be announcing the link on Facebook and other sites soon. A radical Moment? Recently I saw a film called "The Cockettes" about a radical performance group in San Francisco in the 1970's and I realized that spontaneous personal and social revolution is always accessible to us if we are brave enough to embrace the moment.

Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival

And there is more about Mandy and Tranny Hotel here (another interview):

<http://wp.me/PLqwT-7Z> and here (Mandy's text mentioned

above):<http://radicalemomente.wordpress.com/> Mandy, thank you very much and all the best!

Mandy Romero

Thanks – have a good day!