Shades of Tango: researching performance and performing research

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Abstract

This paper will discuss the experience and application of unconventional inter-disciplinary research methods in the investigation of Argentine social history and cultural identity. In 2001 Faye Bendrups and Guillermo Anad began a collaborative experiment in melding their academic research with performance-making techniques. The aims are to research not only through standard academic means (discourse, seminars, publications etc.), but also through the corresponding development of original creative performance works. The works that have subsequently been workshopped and/or produced include: Sindromtango: una opera grotesca (Melbourne 2000, Buenos Aires 2001), Versos Tomados (Buenos Aires 2001), Perpetual Tango (Melbourne 2002) and Shades of Tango (Melbourne 2003). This paper will discuss Shades of Tango as an example of their experiential research methods.