

[Edges]

A Manifesto for Expanded Magic

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This manifesto acts as a provocation, an offering and definition for new ways to think about and discuss performance magic in the contemporary performance landscape. Tom Cassani is a performance maker, researcher and writer working across Live Art, Performance Art, Contemporary Theatre and Circus. This manifesto emerges from the authors ongoing research into broader applications, intersections and explorations of performance magic. Cassani's practice is a collision of performance magic, body-based practice, circus sideshow disciplines and Live Art/Performance Art. Cassani's work emerges amongst a rich and eclectic array of other artists who work with magic in novel, interdisciplinary and experimental ways. Cassani's academic research focuses on refining and consolidating the articulation of his own practice and others that use performance magic outside of a traditional frame. This manifesto is part of that articulation and is offered in order to be used, transformed, re-written, cut in half, challenged, torn and restored.

KEYWORDS: Expanded practice, Expanded field, Performance, Performance Art, Performance Magic, Magic, Live Art, Contemporary Theatre, Body-Based, Manifesto, Authenticity, Deception, Magician, Performance Artist, Durational Performance

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A MANIFESTO FOR

EXPANDED MAGIC

Expanded Magic is the collision of a set of **Live Art** strategies with disciplines found in the field of **Performance Magic** e.g. Sleight of Hand, Illusion, Stage Magic, Sideshow, Mentalism. This collision forms a new lens from which to approach **Magic performance-making**, and to critique **Performance Magic** itself, contributing to wider discourse around **authenticity, deception, truth** and **manipulation** in the contemporary performance landscape.

EXPANDED MAGIC IS

The Anti Magical: Magic as Live Art, Magic as Performance Art, Magic as choreography, Magic as possible and Magic as dance.

Temporal Magic: Time-Based Magic, Backwards Magic, Durational Magic, Endured Magic, Long Magic, Slow Magic, Action-Based Magic and Durational Impossibilities.

Re-Contextualised Magic: Magic in galleries, Magic in private, Magic without magicians, Task-Based Magic, Outsider Magic and Post-Authentic Magic.

Body-based Magic: 'Real Magic', not 'Magic' Magic, Live Magic, Present Magic, Duets with Cards and Coins and Impossible Bodily Feats.

Deconstructed and Destabilised Magic: Abstracted, Exploded, Dissected, Decoded, True Magic, False Magic and New Constellations of Attention.

Authenticity and Conceit exist simultaneously in a range of formative and important works & practices of Contemporary Theatre/Live Art over the past 30 years - practices that have been widely studied and discussed.

Expanded Magic re-deploys the strategies of **Live Artists** and **Contemporary Theatre makers**, those whose methods move **beyond** and **betwixt** traditional modes of performance and often foreground **authenticity, the body, presence, action and truth**.

Expanded Magic uses established approaches to making and performing that centre **time/duration, repetition, the body, deconstruction, recontextualisation** and **abstraction**, to name a few.

Expanded Magic does this in order to **complicate** and **expand the performance of Magic** in the contemporary moment.

Additionally, the inclusion of **Performance Magic**, a field with a complex relationship to **deception** and **belief**, within the current contemporary performance landscape and discourse will **challenge** and **reshape** established practices/notions of authenticity and truth.

EXPANDED MAGIC IS

Authentic Deception