300 Word Statement

*Dialogue as the Embodiment of Love*: a Practice-Research Investigation into a Trilogy of Socially Engaged Work by Ridiculusmus

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This portfolio comprises a Practice as Research investigation of the dialogical principles and practical performance approaches of Ridiculusmus Theatre Company. Specifically, it analyses the synthesis of the company’s creative methods and the therapeutic principles of ‘Open Dialogue’ in three large-scale interdisciplinary projects *The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland* (2014), *Give Me Your Love* (2016) and *Die!Die!Die!Old People Die!* (2018).

Richard Talbot is a performer, contributor to written and devised material and board member of the company. The portfolio presents the notion of ‘embedded academic’ as a perspective on the company’s collaborations with clinic psychologists and mental health therapies. It reviews the advantages and limitations of this involvement and perspective on the work. The author has participated as a performer in international tours of *The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland* (2014-2018), in hosting rehearsals, and scratch performance and public engagement events for *Give Me Your Love* (2016), and in performing in iterations of *Die!Die!Die!Old People Die!* performed in Salford and Liverpool in 2017, as well as in hosting rehearsals, a scratch performance and a Q&A panel at University of Salford in 2018. The three productions are to be presented as a trilogy in 2019 at Summerhall Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Battersea Arts Centre, at the latter Richard Talbot chairs a panel with collaborating therapists.

The collection comprises an account of developing *The Eradication of Schizophrenia in Western Lapland* and includes annotated audio-visual documentation, a conference paper, and a chapter featuring an edited interview with Ridiculsumus, with academic commentary. A journal article and playscript preface complements documentation of *Give Me Your Love* (2016) and a forthcoming paper for the Bodies and Performance Panel *Feeling Bad: Negative Affects, Performance, and Bodies* for the Theatre and Performance Research Association Annual Conference, University of Exeter, 2019. Grief, Laughter and the Performance of ‘Crustaceous Elders’ in *Die!Die!Die!Old People Die!* (2018) will complete the documentation and analysis of the trilogy. An article based is planned for publication by January 2020.

325 words