

BLAST THEORY



FIXING POINT

About the work

Fixing Point is an audio walk about Seamus Ruddy made in collaboration with electronic musician Clark. It is a Faster Than Sound commission for Snape Maltings in Suffolk. The Maltings focus on a programme of classical music in an idyllic rural setting. However the area has a strong military history with experimental installations at Orford Ness and an American nuclear base at Bentwaters.

Building on these contexts, Blast Theory conducted an interview with Anne Morgan about her brother Seamus Ruddy. He was killed in 1985 by members of the Irish National Liberation Army in Paris. His body has never been found but is believed to be in a forest in France. He is one of a number of victims who disappeared and relatives are still anxiously hoping to find news of their loved ones. Anne speaks movingly about Seamus and what it is like to wait 26 years for news that never arrives.

To take part in *Fixing Point* you walk to a wood wearing headphones connected to a smartphone. The screen shows a map of the area and audio recordings are hidden in the wood. You explore the wood to reveal the recordings and learn more about Seamus. Each recording is also marked by a metal fixing point which is screwed into the ground leaving a galvanised steel ring visible above the surface. Blast Theory Associate Artist Jon Sutton created the Android application.

Audience Comments

"Incredibly affecting, haunting piece of story telling. An unresolved search that would not have been felt so deeply told by other means."

"Overwhelmingly sad, confusing, hopeful, melancholic, heart fillingly lovely. Well done. It was I guess like experiencing the feelings of sadness and confusion that goes with trying to find out what happened to missing a loved one. Great location for it."

"Absolutely great – truly haunting."

"Lilting, evocative and strangely moving. Gorgeous."

"Subtle and beautiful integration of technology and story telling in a magical setting."

Tour requirements

Size of company

For installation and site visits, 1-2 on the road: 1 artist and 1 technical. No Blast Theory team are required when the show is up and running, as it can be run by a local team.

Scale of venue

The show takes place in a wooded area in the host's country. The wood needs to be at least 100 metres by 200 metres.

A Front of House position will be required a maximum of 5 minutes away from the woods for a member of the public to start from. Liaison between the hosts and the artists in the period preceding the show will allow exact location/scale of the wood and its proximity to the Front of House position to be worked out.

A small space for storage and desk space for 2 people will be required.

Session times

The show runs for 6-8 hours each day, for between 3 days and 28 days depending on the context of the event. A minimum of 12 people can participate each hour or 72 people per day. The work lasts 30 minutes.

Site Visit

1 member of Blast Theory for 1-2 days, to choose a site, a route and to collect GPS reference points. The site visit must be carried out at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the show.

Freight

None required.

Working with local performers

There are opportunities for 2 local artists/performers to be involved in the presentation of the work. Please contact the company for further details.

Language

This work is written and performed in English. Please discuss bilingual and translation options with the company.

Participation and ticketing

Audience members use a smartphone provided by Blast Theory. They can buy a ticket from the box office in advance. They start the work from a dedicated front of house position or start location which needs to be a maximum of 5 minutes away from the woods.

Depending on arrangements with the host venue, tickets can either be free or purchased in advance or on the door, but it is advised that the audience book in advance.

Fixing Point is recommended for 16 years and over.

Availability

Ongoing.

Artists' presentations and workshops

The artists are available to provide talks, presentations and workshops. Please discuss options with the company.

Production

Detailed technical specifications and insurance information are available on request.

Previewing the work

A DVD of *Fixing Point* will be available on request from Blast Theory. A copy of the script is also available.

Further information and photos are also available here:

- www.blasttheory.co.uk/projects/fixing-point

Contact

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Credits

Fixing Point was commissioned by Faster Than Sound at Snape Maltings, Suffolk, UK.
Music by Clark. Android application by Jon Sutton.



Supported using public funding by
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