

BLAST THEORY



Photography by Anne Brassler

ULRIKE AND EAMON COMPLIANT

About the work

Ulrike And Eamon Compliant is a walking piece exploring the streets, alleyways and hidden rooms of the city. It invites audiences to become participants and interlocutors with the artists as part of a challenging investigation of terrorism and political responsibility.

To start you enter the space to find a phone. Press dial and a person on a video link answers. You are asked to put on a pair of sunglasses. You are asked to choose between Eamon, a Customs Agent from Northern Ireland with four children, and Ulrike, a journalist and single mother based in Berlin. You are then guided out of the space and into the city. As you walk you receive a number of phone calls. It becomes clear that now you are the person you have chosen. It is you who has lived under cover, who has spied, who has robbed and killed. You have made the ultimate decision to risk your life to change the world.

The experience creates a parallel and, at times, unnerving reality to the physical world through which you are walking. You may choose to empathise or to be yourself. The calm voice on the phone invites your trust.

As you near your final destination, you must make a big decision: "Are you ready to go to the room where questions get asked?" If you agree you are led down an alleyway through a hidden doorway for a meeting and a glimpse through the two-way mirror.

Ulrike And Eamon Compliant is an individual experience that lasts for approximately 30 minutes. It is based on the lives of Ulrike Meinhof

(1934 – 1976) and Eamon Collins (1954 – 1999). Meinhof was a German journalist who became a notorious member of the Red Army Faction. Her fraught relationship with fellow members Andreas Baader and Gudrun Ensslin may have contributed to her suicide while awaiting trial in prison in 1976. Collins was an active member of the IRA's Nutting Squad, in charge of internal security, before becoming an informer on whose evidence large numbers of the IRA were prosecuted. He was murdered in 1999.

Ulrike And Eamon Compliant premiered at the 53rd Venice Biennale in June 2009. In 2010 it was presented in Korean and English at the TRUST: Media City Seoul exhibition and in 2011 made its UK premiere at NEAT Festival Nottingham followed by a presentation at Doc/Fest in Sheffield.

In 2010 *Ulrike And Eamon Compliant* won Best Real World Game at the International Mobile Gaming Awards, Barcelona, Spain and in 2011 was nominated for the Sheffield Doc/Fest Innovation Award, UK.

Audience comments

"To me it was the best work on show [in Venice] - not because it was using technology, just the opposite, because it was one of the works that did something to me."

Tour requirements

Size of company

Between 3 – 5 on the road, depending on language and provision of local performers. 1 - 2 Artists, 1 - 2 Performers, 1 Technical, 1 Production Manager.

Scale of venue

The set/installation for *Ulrike And Eamon Compliant* is comprised of 2 identical wooden rooms:

Wooden Room 1 is where the audience start the walk, it contains a tv monitor and should be located in a publicly accessible space (like a foyer or gallery). Wooden Room 2 is the finishing point of the walk and is where an interview takes place. It contains a 2-way mirror and should be located in a private space (such as an office or disused shop). The second room should be located close to the starting point or no more than 5 minutes walk. The rooms are the following dimensions and should be installed in spaces that allow at least 1m clearance on all sides and at the top: Length 3660mm x Width 1220 x Height 2561mm. The dedicated control room is a private space for the company to manage the technical operations that can also be used as a green room and dressing room. Large enough to accommodate 3 working tables and ideally within the same building as one of the 2 installation spaces.

Full technical requirements, construction diagrams & elevations and installation photographs for these spaces are available separately.

Session times

The show runs for 4-6 hours each day, for between 3 and 14 days depending on the context of the event. Audience capacity is 10 per hour. The show lasts 30-40 minutes.

Site Visit

1 member of Blast Theory for 2-3 days, to document routes for the walks. The site visit must be carried out at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the show.

Freight

The company's preference is for the 2 Wooden Rooms to be freighted and installed on site. Alternatively the rooms can be constructed according to the construction diagrams and elevations.

Freight is comprised of: 2 Wooden Rooms and furniture, tools, IT equipment, costumes & print materials. Total: 8 cubic metres.

Working with local performers

Hosting the project requires 2-4 dedicated local performers to work over the course of the show and for 1 day of the Get-In. This role is central to the smooth running of the work. The performer role requires confidence in dealing with the public and competence in using computers and mobile devices. Blast Theory aim to demystify our work and a part of that is the dissemination of skills to local people.

Language

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

Participation and Ticketing

Audience members use Blast Theory's mobile phones to take part. Depending on arrangements with the host venue, the work can be either ticketed or non-ticketed, and the tickets can be purchased or free.

Ulrike And Eamon Compliant is recommended for 16 years and over.

Call Costs

Ulrike And Eamon Compliant incurs call costs for sending voice messages to participants' mobile phones. There is a cost per user which can be included in the overall fee or can be covered by the host organisation. Generally this cost is between EU3-EU4 per audience member. Audience members are charged to make calls at their standard network rate.

Artists' presentations and workshops

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

Previewing the work

A DVD and book of *Ulrike And Eamon Compliant* are available on request from Blast Theory. Further information and videos are also available here:

- <http://www.blasttheory.co.uk/projects/ulrike-and-eamon-compliant/>

Contact

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Credits

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