

ENTREVISTA DAVE PHILLIPS
INTERVIEW WITH DAVE PHILLIPS

- ¿Qué busca con sus sonidos? ¿Qué deberíamos experimentar al escucharlos?
What are you looking for with your sounds? What should we experience when we listen to them?

many things. i consider sound as a language, it's a form of communication. it is primal, direct, intimate, it includes the intellectual and the emotional but can go much further. it talks to senses that are otherwise withered. sound is also a dialogue with one's self, turning one's self inside out. sound and soundwork has metaphysical as well as therapeutical qualities. it's a method of understanding, of explaining, of sharing and of partaking. sound can also act as a catalyst for impulses that often can't surface in a socially restricted, artificial environment, it can awaken dormant existences, it has cathartic qualities that can work in very liberating and cleansing ways. the creative process is essential to my life, it also signifies a contrast to the consumerist environment that i'm part of. sound is also a form of protest, of releasing negative energies and turning them into constructive ones. sound can be a a very personalised ritual, or a political, psychological or shamanist tool, tapping the essence of life. it is many things for me and it can be many, also different things for those who listen or experience it. what you experience is up to you, but prepare to be touched in ways that may not be familiar or usual.

- Describanos uno de sus espectáculos en vivo, cómo es esa búsqueda de la catarsis liberadora.
Please describe one of your live shows, how does the search for that liberating catharsis work?

my live shows always start with a lot of preparation. each set is guided by strict compositional and conceptual frames. i prepare my set/s dilligently, i put a lot of importance into the fact that i can present my work "on stage"/in public, it's a big responsibility. every time before presenting a "live action" or "video action" (a physical performance with strong communicative elements, sometimes accompanied by a video), about 30 to 180 minutes before i actually perform this set, a tensity happens in me, a very clear focus manifests itself, i can't really talk to anybody, i become fragile & nervous but also very determined, my being is taken over by this beforstanding 'mission', engrossed by this set i'm about to perform, there's an intention to this piece and a passion about it and this takes control of my body, my self... the fact that these sets contain rather clear issues that they wish to communicate, matters i feel strongly about, also adds.... i become introverted/introspective, it's like a gathering of energy, so that it can be released when i play... so all this high tension and intention unloads itself into a set - kind of slowly, as the set builds slowly, but it builds and builds, rising, exploding.... it can be quite dramatic and emotional...it's hard to explain in more detail, it has to be experienced...

- ¿Es necesario para el hombre perder de forma puntual su racionalidad para reencontrarse con determinadas emociones escondidas, ocultas?

Is it necessary for man to temporarily lose rationality in order to find certain hidden emotions?

i'm not sure if "losing rationality" is essential in finding hidden emotions. different people, different emotions... the case of "the hidden" depends on the level of awareness and on each individual's needs (supposed or real). what i do know is that the human brain is hypertrophied and deemed too important, 'logic' or 'intelligence' are treated as if they were the means to an end. logic is, at best, the beginning of wisdom, but far from the end of it. intelligence is a useful tool but it doesn't define a mindful, insightful, balanced or reasonable being, the human need to intellectualise and to explain everything has caused some rather ridiculous, even surreal but also dangerous results. there's more needed. on the other hand, we live in an over-regulated, bureaucratic, one-sided and contrived social environment that can be restrictive, repressive and even hostile to some of the emotions and instincts that are necessary for humans to find a balance and to be able to strive personally. dancing and dance-music, to use a popular example, have established themselves as a necessary ingredient of western society, understandably so, i think, but the essence of the idea has been removed, so it

has become part of an 'event-culture' that usually happens in artificial and commercialised environments, in soft, subdued forms, with the aid of designer drugs, and i'm not saying drugs are a bad thing, not at all, there just seems something missing when one or two types of drugs seem such essential ingredients in attempting to seek a release.

either way... hu/man existence as it is currently established is out of balance (unsurprisingly, in very regulated and contrived ways, giving the impression that there is a balance, or at least control), and so, yes, it is necessary to regain that balance, by creating "life" which can be somewhat chaotic, so to let one's self "lose rationality", to let go of inhibitions, to fall into a trance, to indulge in liberating personal rituals, to "lose control" (or whatever else you want to call it), it is an important part of life. if you wanna be alive.

- ¿Cuáles son esas emociones que cree que el hombre ha perdido por el desarrollo de la civilización?

Which emotions do you think man has lost with the development of civilization?

i'd be hard pressed to name the emotions that have been lost, but it has to do with our ability to feel like part of a whole rather than to feel that we're the superior, ruling element who controls/runs the whole; or about the child-like fire we so easily let extinguish when we 'function' in an 'adult' world; or the way that we have established alternate realities or parallel societies that people actually believe are complete; or the way that we allow our consumer society to indulge in the continual accumulation of goods to the point where we are so immersed that we don't even question it anymore (let alone what it implies); the way that a lot of the ruling class or those in socially high positions are driven by short-term goals and by maintaining their status quo without realising what their position is based upon than, rather than effecting something that matters beyond their navel ; the way that so many lies are spread, not only in trying to sell products; the way that feminism hasn't really accomplished anything but that bossy women who act like men in a male world act as if it did; the way that social values have become inferior to personal enrichment; the way that greed is spread through all social classes; the way that our natural environment has become a place for stocking up on resources, the way we mistreat and exploit just to maintain our affluence (even though this dirty work is outsourced); the pathological competitiveness that makes us forget about cooperation; the fact that we have only one life and only one planet and that we still fail to grasp that we're all in the same boat, that we are hardly challenged to go beyond the rat-race and, for example, be more humble and more honest or dignified because we know that all these things require too much effort and may lower our social status; that we rather wait for things to happen and just go with the flow and become complacent, fat and diseased and lose all self-respect... instead we send missions to mars to discover new life while we are killing off species after species on the planet we live on.

the human species is one of the youngest animals on this planet and we are still in our infant shoes. this has nothing to do with intelligence. we should look around us and see what's there, what's really there: people, animals, nature, the environment. this is what we have, this is here and now. the priorities should be clear. to destroy or exploit all this seems suicidal and just plain stupid. nature doesn't need us. we could start acting like the thoughtful, mindful beings that we believe ourselves to be.

- ¿Qué papel cree que le corresponde a la humanidad en el planeta? ¿Es el que está jugando? ¿Será la propia evolución la que nos haga corregir el rumbo?

What role do you think humanity has in this planet? Is it the role it is currently playing? Will evolution itself make us correct our ways?

that's difficult to answer. likesaid i think mankind is still in its infancy and has yet to find its balance within the bigger picture. evolution is as unpredictable as life, i don't like to indulge in speculation. i also don't like to indulge in apocalyptic visions and say that we are digging our own grave, i think that nature is very strong and can handle us. can we handle ourselves though? i wonder why we humans must be such a greedy and ungrateful parasites on this planet. why all this pain and death that could be avoided - it just seems dumb. we do, after all, have the intelligence to do amazing things, so why do we not use it in ways where it matters? what will it actually take for us to find our place within nature? maybe the point is even that we don't - as long as we keep on going. i don't know... what i find important in all this is to start with one's self, to be mindful of one's own actions and to seize responsibility. if he or she feels like that, of course. we need to liberate ourselves from this ratrace we're in and the aristocracy that rules and establish a more dignified humanity and

something that maybe even would deserve to be called democracy - though it's never just black and white - not forgetting that life itself is destructive and full of contradictions.

- ¿Qué es para usted el Humanismo? ¿Es necesario sufrir para aprender, para entender el papel que nos corresponde?

What is Humanism to you? Is it necessary to suffer in order to learn, in order to understand the role that corresponds to us?

pain is a good teacher, at least theoretically. practically we (in the 'western' world) are good at causing ourselves imaginary pain and problems because we lack real ones. not sure how much learning that involves. it seems that our empathic ability for collective suffering has been forgotten. i think using all of one's senses is highly underrated, maybe we've even lost some of our senses on the way.

humanism seems a broad term and is used in different ways, but i'm not informed enough to use this word freely. frankly, i am sceptical about it, thinking that nowadays it's probably used more often than not to play on people's consciousness, as a by-product of media (usually associated with an organisation that asks you for an annual payment that mainly is good for your own consciousness), rather than a carrier of real and meaningful ideas and actions.

the word 'human rights' is more close to me, even though human rights, animal rights and environmental protection and awareness are all part of the same big picture. maybe humanism itself is a bit too anthropocentric.

if i read the 'international humanist and ethical union's bylaw 5.1 that says "Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance, which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. It stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethic based on human and other natural values in the spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality." then that sounds good to me. it seems as well-meant as the 'universal declaration of human rights' - and maybe it's also as ineffective. for if we truly want to apply human rights, there has to be an 'adjustment'. certain people (economic, political and religious "managers", the "new aristocracy", for example) not only profit from exploitation (not rarely officially using human rights or fair trade in their propaganda) but also need to maintain their social status and so couldn't care less about the subsequent suffering of humans and of nature. and again others blindly support this by buying the products or ideas that are the result of this exploitative and aristocratic/oligarchic rule. if we want a "more humane" society, then there are elements in this society that we cannot support anymore, they have to be gotten rid of. we take our peace and wealth for granted only because we fail to understand what sustains it.