

Reckless Sleepers

Schrödinger

Press and Marketing



Contacts

Reckless Sleepers

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[Flickr album](#)

[Web page reckless - sleepers](#)

[Vimeo time-lapse](#)

[Vimeo full length](#)

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Credits

Performed by Mole Wetherell, Leen Dewilde, Alex Covell, Leentje Van De Cruys, Kevin Egan, Rebecca Young

Technical operators Ryan O'Shea

Artistic Director Mole Wetherell

Mole Wetherell – founder and artistic director of Reckless Sleepers, visual artist theatre director and designer.

Leen Dewilde – creative member of Reckless Sleepers, a visual artist, dance maker and choreographer created A String Section in 2011

Alex Covell – Began working with Reckless Sleepers on the young artist project “this is not America part 3”

Leentje Van de Cruys – Belgian artist and theatre maker living in the UK making solo performances and installations worked for Fabuleus performing, writing and directing for younger artists.

Kevin Egan – Theatre maker and academic based in the North West. He was the sound and lighting designer for 'With my head in the'.

Rebecca Young – Began working with Reckless Sleepers on the young artist project “this is not America part 3” she is a performer in the new project Negative Space.

Company History

Started in 1989 incorporated as a UK company in 1994 based in Nottingham from 1994 - 2000 at PreSet a rehearsal facility developed by Mole Wetherell, in 2000 the company was resident company at the National Museum of Scotland and Tramway in Scotland In 2001 the company were resident in Kortrijk and Gent in Belgium. Since 2002 the company has been based in both Belgium and the UK.

The company a group of individual artists who live in Belgium, the UK and Ireland. The company artists are all specialists in theatre making, but have additional expertise in dance, performance, visual art and design.

The company is dedicated to the production, presentation and development of innovative and experimental contemporary visual art and performance. Often made in residencies, the company continue this residency model for all presentations. Presenting simultaneous projects or creating new projects devised with students or young people from the city where they are temporary residents.

In 2014 the company were resident in Polverigi Italy creating both A String Section and an Italian version of The Last Supper with 3 Italian artists.

Current repertoire projects are :- Negative Space created in 2014, A String Section created in 2012, Schrödinger 2011, The Last Supper 2004 and Schrödinger's sister project Negative Space.

Artistic Statement

Reckless Sleepers create original theatre pieces installation projects and interventions for theatres, galleries, museums, site and seasonally specific projects that both entertain and challenge its audiences, viewers and participants.

Reckless Sleepers produce works from a basis of research and development; where ideas are central, projects are installed rather than presented, mistakes are embraced, ideas are given a chance, and a second chance, and pushed so that they become uncomfortable to do, uncomfortable to listen to and uncomfortable to watch.

The company take almost 18 months to deliver a project from initial idea through to premiere presentation, once produced a piece of work will still go through a process of change and reworking. Projects remain in repertoire until they become unworkable.

The company invest in research phases for all new ideas, out of these phases new projects emerge, sometimes they are theatre pieces, sometimes not.

Publicity Copy

72 words

Reckless Sleepers go back and forward in time recreating one of its most celebrated performances Schrödinger. On stage is a box with hatches and doors. It can be the box where the cat is locked up or an experimental chamber. The chamber is populated by a group of experimenters / artists, trying to conduct research into immeasurable theories. Schrödinger is about thought experiments, cats, René Magritte, love, time, mathematics, observations, truth lies and alcohol.

95 words

In 1933 Erwin Schrödinger won the Nobel Prize for his contribution to Quantum Mechanics. He theorised a box in which a cat exists as living and dead at the same time. In 1998 Reckless Sleepers built that box – and now over a decade later, they are climbing back inside. In one of the company's most celebrated performance pieces the impossible is probable: truth and illusion are inseparable. Laws are made bent then broken. It's a visually mesmerising performance that sways between question and answer, chaos and order, what we can measure and what we can't.

116 words

The physicist Schrödinger found out that light particles are in different states of being at the same time. Only when an observation is made do particles collapse into just one state. The cat in the box illustrates this paradox: a cat is placed in a box with an unopened bottle of poison gas. Whether or not the bottle opens – and the cat is poisoned – depends on whether a radioactive atom decays which will trigger the poison to be released. According to the principles of quantum theory, until the box is opened the atom is both 'decayed' and 'not decayed' at the same time. So the cat must be both dead and alive at the same time.

Age: 16+

Duration: 1 hour.

Press Quotes

'the company create marvellously bizarre scenarios that confront notions of definition and perception, and challenge the rules and conventions we apply to everything from mathematics to emotions, concluding the very belief that we exist and know the difference between truth and lie.' - **Glasgow Herald**

'..in 60 minutes of darkly comic, sensory, experimental theatre, physically demanding for the guinea-pig players, mentally taxing and visually stimulating for the audience.' – **Yorkshire evening post**

'You might, like me, be thinking about it for days afterwards.' - **The Times**

'and then the rain comes in to wash them away. This would be an existentially terrifying finale, if it wasn't also a haunting, beautiful, dramatic scene. That black box might well, in the final analysis, be a metaphor for the mind, but it is also a space for gripping physical theatre.' - **The Guardian**

'The climatic finale is beautiful as soaked, shattered bodies litter the space of the cube; the sixth and most central character that has dominated all, now revealed as a living entity in its own right, stood before us covered in chalk handwriting and doodles, crying as water cascades feebly from every worn and tired orifice.' -**Total Theatre**

"Experimental and very physical, but also eminently accessible, because it is highly visual, the theatre of Reckless Sleepers operates like a rebus and like a metaphor of the mind in which words and images appear, disappear, and reappear before nestling in the unconscious." **Gilles Bechet Agenda Brussels**

Reckless Sleepers who in more than a thousand performances at this year's Fringe in Edinburgh managed to do something out of the ordinary. - **Jutarnji List Zagreb**

'And you appeared out of nowhere, as if you had come straight out of the ground and stood right in front of me looking harder and harder past me through me and away past me into some other time you looked angry and bitter or perhaps I wanted you to look that way' – **performance text**

Thoughts

When you have to tell a lie, the truth is fixed in your mind the lie is based on a truth, the truth and the lie co-exists simultaneously, the thought, the image that thought produces and the words that describe that lie occupy the same space and exist at the same time.

In Magritte's painting of a pipe we see the title of the painting within the painting, a painted set of words that read 'this is not a pipe' – the image however is of a pipe – but its not a pipe – it's a piece of canvas painted in a way to look like the image of a pipe – Magritte tells a lie and the truth at the same time.

When making the original performance of Schrödinger in the late 20th Century we tried to understand the complex nature of things, we learnt that light exhibits both wave and particle properties. We learnt about thought experiments methods used in trying to articulate complicated ideas, we thought about time, and wanting to make something that wasn't linear in that every event had a consequence on what was presented afterwards so that the logic would be exposed in an arrow of time – that travelled in many directions.

Press Release

[Date for release here]

[Today's date]

On [Date] internationally acclaimed Anglo-Belgian Performance Company **Reckless Sleepers** will bring their touring production of **Schrödinger** to [your venue details]

Mole Wetherell, Artistic Director, says: 'I couldn't leave the project **Schrödinger** alone over the past 20 years we have looked at the project again and again, five years after the last performance of Schrödinger's Box we spent two weeks re-examining the piece, looking for holes or gaps in the structure, reworking the processes that we'd used, this research ultimately led to the publication 'Trial', which itself reignited interest in the performance, and so 5 years after the launch of 'Trial' we present the piece again. To call it a remake would be wrong – that's impossible the new version **Schrödinger** works with a different group of artists – Reckless Sleepers have changed the way in which they perform – the structure however – the box the 6th performer as it is called is the only constant – the doors, hatches, walls exits and entrances are in the same place. But the people who occupy it will have changed – like the spaces that we perform it in, the cities that we visit will have gone through a transformation.' Buildings have been altered or upgraded some of the places that we originally presented the project in no longer exist have moved or changed their name but the central themes of this performance are still resonant – we play with time and memory – the memory of what you just saw and for some the memory of what happened over 10 years ago.

I get asked a lot why, why are we re-staging this old piece? The list of reasons increases, as work on this new version progresses, on the top of the list is that I believe that it is a good piece of work that I am proud of being one of the artists that were involved in its conception. And its important that people have the opportunity to experience this project for the first time.

Notes to Editor

- To book tickets please contact [insert box office details]
- For more information, interviews or images please contact Mole Wetherell on +44 115 714 2171 or info@reckless-sleepers.co.uk
- For more information about **Schrödinger** and Reckless Sleepers please go to www.reckless-sleepers.eu
- **Schrödinger** was funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Wraparound Activity

Reckless Sleepers deliver projects for and with students or young practitioners this currently includes a series of University residencies creating new works with large ensembles.

For each presentation of Schrödinger Reckless Sleepers will organise residencies, workshops and lectures at Universities and Colleges.

Some of the participants of our residencies and workshops will become Reckless Sleepers ambassadors who will support the company in creating new audiences for future performances.

Workshop letter

Dear

Between [\[insert dates\]](#) **Reckless Sleepers** will be performing **Schrödinger** at [\[your venue details\]](#), one of the company's most celebrated performance works and we are writing to formally invite you and your students to attend this performance.

In order to support this presentation we would like to offer your students and colleagues an introductory workshop. This workshop will focus on the creative processes that were developed whilst devising and creating the original Schrödinger performance. Many of which are described in the book 'Trial.'

The basis of the workshop is to pass on as many of these methods or strategies for developing the students own work as possible.

A minimum of a 2 hours session is preferable, **Reckless sleepers** normally charge £150 (per workshop). The ideal size for a workshop is a group of 15 students in a room capable of supporting this number of students approximately 12m x 12m should be ideal.

To book a workshop please contact: Mole Wetherell +44 115 714 2171
Email info@reckless-sleepers.co.uk.

A post show discussion has been scheduled for [\[insert dates\]](#)
A matinee performance has been scheduled for [\[insert dates\]](#)

If you would prefer a lecture about the work of the company then please do not hesitate to let us know. The company artistic director presents a lecture about audience/performer relationships called "in the same room" the lecture has been presented at many of the UK's Universities.

Kind regards,

**Reckless
Sleepers**

Support

Glasgow University.

I am writing to offer evidence of the enormously productive work which Reckless Sleepers have undertaken in recent years, particularly with students and younger audiences....I am interested in exposing my students to the most challenging, skilful and relevant examples of practice, but where there is a workshop or educational dimension to such a relationship I particularly attend to the quality of engagement between the company concerned and the student group. I have to say that the educational work undertaken has been exemplary in this respect. And this is not always true of other groups, no matter how exciting their performance practice is.

Last autumn we invited you to perform ***The Pilots*** and run an intensive day workshop with selected Theatre Studies students because we knew that the performance strategies and concerns which characterised the work of Reckless Sleepers engaged imaginatively, practically and theoretically with our curriculum concerns and its pedagogies. Your visit here was remarkably successful – the theatre was full for the performance and students attending the workshop were – intelligently – appreciative of the work undertaken. It was indeed an excellent, if small, ‘case study’ of a productive and generative relationship between a university department and a professional theatre company.

I should also point out that as external examiner for the Contemporary Theatre and Performance programme at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) I am very aware of the significant relationship Reckless Sleepers has had with this department over the years. It has been clear to me that the impact you have had with 2nd and 3rd year students and the quality of their work has been substantial. Indeed, the pedagogical model worked out between yourselves and tutors at MMU has been exemplary and one we would aspire to follow and recreate here, if resources allowed. I have remarked on this in my reports as an external examiner.

Dr Simon Murray Senior Lecturer in Theatre Studies

University of Worcester

The show itself was challenging and engaging at the same time and thoughtfully introduced the students to a postmodern style of performance. Interestingly, the show had a considerable effect on the kind of work the students themselves produced later in the course. A couple of students, having now completed the course, are now developing performances of their own in which I can see the influence of the work of Reckless Sleepers.

Reckless Sleepers are an invaluable asset to the field of contemporary performance in this country (and elsewhere). They create thought provoking, carefully crafted work, and are deeply concerned to support and promote new, developing artists and performers.

Dr. Jane George
Course Leader BA Drama & Performance

University of Wolverhampton

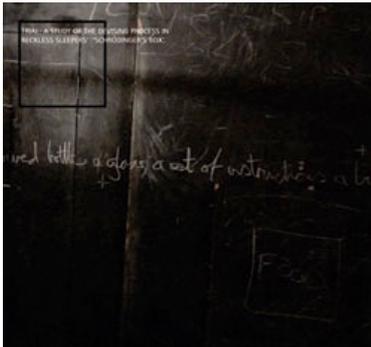
Reckless Sleepers have made a small but incredibly valuable contribution to the Drama and Performance course at the University of Wolverhampton over the last few years. This included a running a workshop for second year students that inspired, baffled, excited and provoked the students in a way that not only remained with them for the rest of that module, but also sent ripples down the rest of their time on the course. In 2009, a different cohort of second year students attended a performance of *The Pilots* at the Arena Theatre, and, in the context of that module, it was probably one of the most successful pieces we have ever taken students to see. The range of responses generated by the performance, and the way in which it both drew students in but refused to give them easy answers allowed for and encouraged students to develop their critical and theoretical tools in a significant way.

What is particularly important for our students is the opportunity to see work by, and to work with, theatre makers making genuinely experimental work. The involvement that our students have had with Reckless Sleepers has enabled them to link process with performance, and theory with practice in a way that the work of very few companies allow. And the students really enjoyed it.

Dr Paul Johnson Head of Drama

Publication

Title: Trial. A study of the devising process in Reckless Sleepers Schrödinger's Box'



Format:	Paper back
Authors:	Andrew Brown & Mole Wetherell
Classification:	Performance Art
ISBN:	978-1-84102-170-6

Cover text Trial is a unique and detailed study of Reckless Sleepers, one of the UK's leading experimental performance companies. Using image and text it explores a multiplicity of connections between ideas and practice, as well as diverse processes used by the company in the devising of their celebrated work 'Schrödinger's Box'.

150 word summary

Reckless Sleepers are one of the foremost exponents of devised theatre in the UK. Their use of process and varied models for devising and developing material are central to their work. The book is designed as a working document for academics and practitioners, as well as for people with a wider interest in creativity. Within it, creative director Mole Wetherell and artist/academic Andrew Brown identify particular strategies the company have devised or adapted in the process of generating performance and other artistic pedagogical outcomes. The book follows particular ideas and pieces of research and demonstrates how, subject to diverse methods and approaches; new ways of working can be developed.

For more information on this publication and documentation please contact, email info@reckless-sleepers.co.uk