

ROT Greenwich

Performance. (Dur. approx. 30 mins.)

Wednesday 15 December 2021, 7pm

University of Greenwich

Amit Dinesh Patel aka Dushume (electronics)

Richard Whitby (synth, prepared electric guitar)

Siôn Parkinson (Deerhorn organ, vocals)

A video rots.

A five-minute video rots over thirty minutes.

A five-minute video rots over thirty minutes through the actions of three actors.

A five-minute video rots over thirty minutes through the improvised actions of three actors using various musical, material, and lighting effects.

In a theatre, a video is projected onto a white stage curtain.

Three actors stand in front with various musical instruments and other 'stuff' which they'll use to affect the video playing behind them.

The actors are separated from the audience by a second screen, a translucent polythene dustsheet smeared all over with a whitish paste. Taped together in sections, the sheet runs parallel to the curtain and stretching the full width of the theatre. In front of this is the audience.

The duration of the performance is set by the video which repeats five times. There's no clear rhythm to any of the edited sequences, and the timing of the video itself — looping every five minutes or so — is almost imperceptible. However, it might be useful to imagine the tempo of the piece as a creeping *lento*, and to think of its musical dynamics in terms of distortion and decay, and so on.

The three actors are instructed to improvise throughout, responding to the video and to each other, increasing in intensity as the piece progresses. A loose structure is suggested below in the form of an instructional score.

ROT

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Slate [still image]. (10 secs).

Chord [RW]. (3 secs).

Video STARTS.

Improvise until...

Video STOPS.

**REPEAT THREE MORE TIMES, INCREASING IN INTENSITY
UNTIL...**

V

Slate. (10 secs).

Chord [RW]. (3 secs).

Video STARTS FOR THE LAST TIME.

Stage & house lights UP TO MAX.

Improvise until...

Video STOPS.

Slate [white]. Silence. (10 secs).

House lights DOWN TO AMBIENT LEVEL.

END