

Contact has given me deep access to my own authentic movement and playful spirit in the context of community and trust. What a magical discovery! There have been many wonderful souls who came to our jams over the years, and I feel very lucky to have danced with them. **Meryl Juniper** has done a lot to keep Contact alive in Sebastopol. I appreciate her inspired dedication to this dance form. I also appreciate Peter and Lee for taking over the jam in May 2007, when Meryl couldn't do it anymore.

Who knows what the future holds for us jammers? We've been tossing around the idea of having more regular Contact time at the beginning of the Friday night dances in Sebastopol, but that's just an idea at this point. Happens Dance is also planning to start monthly workshops on Contact and related forms starting in the fall. And then some of us will occasionally head down to Marin or the big cities for jams. As a parting gesture, we'll probably have a dinner party sometime soon to enjoy one another's company.

Goodbye to the jam, and thanks to all who participated!

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LAB ON SEXUALITY AND SENSUALITY IN CI

Moscow CI Festival 2009

facilitated by Sabine Parzer and Martin Keogh

I met **Martin Keogh** 12 years ago, when I was traveling through Mexico and he was teaching in San Miguel de Allende. This time in Mexico was the starting point for a great friendship, and it was clear that a common focus for both of us is our interest in the issue of sensuality and sexuality in life and in dancing.

Martin and I were both invited to teach at the **Moscow Contact Festival** in 2009. On the hour and a half bus ride traveling to the festival, Martin and I sat next to each other, and guess what we talked about? Right: sexuality and sensuality! I told Martin that I'd been wanting to offer a lab on sexuality in relationship to dancing CI for a while, but I didn't quite know how to get started. I asked if we could do one together at the Moscow festival. I got the sense that Martin was cautious, knowing about the power of this subject and how it can be a wonderfully rich, exuberant way of looking at ourselves but also bring up some very painful issues for people and communities.

We finally decided to do it. We scheduled it for the last day of the festival because there was no other time left, and this was good for us, because it gave us the chance to really work through the material, voice our concerns, and share a lot of fun and laughter.

Over 60 participants and many teachers (thank you for your support!) came to the lab. It felt great to have so much energy and support for this issue. We opened it by making a big circle and stating a few important things:

- Thank you for your goodwill; this question fills us with a great humility, for it is bigger than us.



Ink drawing by Blanco painted on Sunday, May 2, 2010, of the Oil Action event at the Touch & Play Festival, Berlin, Germany.

- We ask you, as in any regular class, to take responsibility for your physical and emotional well-being.
- We are not therapists, so if you feel you have some strong issues related to the subject of sensuality and sexuality, make sure to check if this is the right place for you.
- We want to hear your experiences, revelations, and questions afterwards.
- If at any point during the laboratory you have had enough, it is fine to leave, but please check in with us first.

The lab consisted of a Universe Score, a Trio Structure about boundaries and touch, and some Open Dancing with eyes closed. (See the online CI Newsletter for details.)

We finished the laboratory with a very tight circle. There was an incredible amount of thankfulness, richness, and shared openness. Many of the dancers voiced that this was a deep learning experience about themselves and how they relate to their sexuality in general and in the dancing. There was an atmosphere of relief and trust; a general sense of bonding; and a great amount of pleasure, love, and excitement.

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TOUCH & PLAY

April 30–May 2, 2010
Schwelle 7, Berlin

Touch & Play, a festival of experimentation on the sensual edges of Contact Improvisation, was held at Schwelle 7 studio in **BERLIN** last spring. **Daniel Hayes** launched the festival with an online statement of provocation challenging Steve Paxton's heavy-handed and decades-old directive that CI ought to focus on physics, not chemistry—that is, on bodily mechanics and not emotional or sensual connections.

The invitational manifesto encouraged more questions than statements from an international group of curious citizens with overlap-

ping experience in CI, tantra, BDSM, polyamory, performance, contemporary dance, tango, and various modes of healing and therapy. These questions inspired the most rigorous CI-based experimentation that I have ever experienced at any CI festival or intensive jam. Working through the abundant smorgasbord of divergent workshops, labs, jams, sex play spaces, discussions, shared meals, and a closing party/jam, our ideas about CI, gender, intimacy, sex, community, and solidarity

were teased, stretched, questioned, deconstructed, affirmed, and reorganized. It was an unstable yet thrilling dance.

A full report is in process, which will be posted on *CQ's* site. If you were there and have experiences to share, send me 100 words describing or reflecting on that experience. If you weren't there and have particular questions, those, too, are welcome.

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There sure is a lot going on in the world of Contact Improvisation!

FIND MORE CI ARTICLES (and expanded versions of the articles printed here) in the **ONLINE CI NEWSLETTER** at www.contactquarterly.com.

- **CITE 2010: CI in the Academic Setting** a personal reflection by Ellie Leonhardt
- **Daniel Lepkoff's Ground Research at Earthdance: A Report** by Roxy Rose Rebar
- **ECITE 2010: Round Robin Project (RRP) Presentation** by Tinu Hettich and Daniel Hayes
- **Global Underscore Solstice's 10th Anniversary** by Claire Filmon and Jessica Rabe
- **Notes from an Injured Dancer** by Susan Arnsten-Russell
- **Russian CI Country Report** update on CI in the Russian Republic & surrounding countries

Don't forget to check CI Webtexts on CQ's website for even more CI stories & articles.