



Charlotte Spencer Projects

Charlotte draws together a broad range of exceptional artists from the fields of choreography, dance, music, visual art, writing and the environment, as performance director, producing original and exciting new work.

Walking Stories is described as an audio walk, but it is much more than just a walk in which one wears headphones, in all it includes performance, observation, thoughtfulness, play and interaction with fellow participants and the surroundings in which you find yourself in. I caught up with Charlotte Spencer and two of the multi-disciplinary artists involved in devising and producing this extraordinary piece of immersive performance. We met in Greenwich Park days before they put on *Walking Stories*, and before I was able to sign up to take part myself. The ambient noise of aircraft, helicopters, parakeets and children playing is intrusive in parts of the interview, however, it strangely echoes the way in which these artists have interwoven a soundscape of current and prerecorded sounds within *Walking Stories* itself. Part scripted with directional instructions, the genius of *Walking Stories* is the way in which it allows participants to follow their own course whilst all listening to the same soundtrack.

Soon after recording the interview Andrew Stuck signed up to participate in *Walking Stories*. It was an extraordinary experience in which one wasn't sure whether those people around you not wearing headphones were actors on a staged event or just curious on-lookers.

Notes from the podcast interview by Andrew Stuck: Recorded in Greenwich Park, London August 2013 and published in August 2014 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Charlotte Spencer Projects website: <http://charlottespencerprojects.org/>

In the interview you hear the voices of **Charlotte Spencer**, **David McCormick** and **Jennifer-Lynn Crawford**, and hear mention of **Tristan Shorr** who was one of the sound artists and provided the narration for *Walking Stories*.

Since the recording of this interview, *Walking Stories* has toured widely in the UK and France including Brighton International Festival, Leeds, Canterbury, London, Brest, and the Rhys Peninsula and a wide mixture of universities and schools. *Walking Stories* will be back in 2015 touring a range of different parks in London. Keep up to date with news of dates and locations through the website: www.charlottespencerprojects.org

The making process for *Walking Stories* was a dynamic affair in which artists from a number of disciplines converged at various residencies reached by bicycle - the route looked something like this: Brighton - Portsmouth - by ferry to Caen - London - Greenwich - Swanley - Kent (Stour Valley Arts: <http://stourvalleyarts.co.uk/>) - Canterbury - Southampton (The Point: <https://www.thepointeastleigh.co.uk/>) - Bristol (Big Green Week: <http://biggreenweek.com/>) - Brighton - Newhaven - Grenoble.

Their recommendation is:

Take your bike for a walk.

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"Contemplative and profound, Charlotte Spencer Project's audio walk through woods in Stanmer Park draws you effortlessly into an experience of natural choreography. It is a choreography of groups and solitude; of the natural world and the rhythms and patterns that emerge from everyday living. It is one of the most calming, quietly beautiful and evocative outdoor pieces I have ever experienced." Fringe Review, Brighton International Festival