

Neal Spowage

## Dr Neal Spowage

[nealunreal@gmail.com](mailto:nealunreal@gmail.com)

[www.nealspowage.com](http://www.nealspowage.com)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Currently guest co-editing and co-ordinating **Organised Sound Volume 32 Number 3** with Norwegian composer Jøran Rudi.

**Part Time Lecturer** in Music Technology and Innovation, Music Technology and performance, Music Technology BSc and Performing Arts at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. October 2009 to present.

**Associate artist of the International Metabody Forum, Brunel University** 2016 – present - Collaborator with Johannes Berringer and Michele Danjoux to create sounding instruments, wearables and totemic objects for the DAP-Lab: Metakimosphere no. 3 (immersive installation-performance).

**Associate artist of the SOMA Projects Group** – 2016 – present.

**Long term collaborator with Dancer/Choreographer Danai Pappa** on four projects - 2011 – present.

**Part Time Visiting Researcher at Newcastle Culture Lab** - October 2011 to January 2012.

**Artists Residency at STEIM (Studio for Electro Instrumental Research)**, Amsterdam. *The Electronic Dumbell* research project. 2010

**Significant Contributor to The Dirty Electronics Ensemble** - October 2008 to present

**Musician and Songwriter** in *Luxury Stranger* 2010-2011.

**Musician and Songwriter** in the *Screaming Banshee Aircrew* 2007-2010.

### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

**5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to 30th August 2017** - Part Time Casual Hourly Paid Lecturer in Music Technology and Performing Arts at De Montfort University.

I have taught on the following modules:

***MUST1002 Techniques of Digital Audio***

***MUST1008 Creating with Technology***

***MUST2001 Creating and Performing***

***MUST2006 Performing With Technology***

***TECH2047 Electronic Musical Instrument Building***

***PERF3017 Performance Interaction and Digital Technologies***

**Duties** - I have assessed and second marked written documentation of 2000 words, fixed media recordings of ten minutes and live electronic music and ensemble performances of ten to twenty minutes for each student. I arrange extra tutorials and pastoral care with my students. I have contributed content to MUST1008 and MUST2006 in the form of assignments.

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

- Aug 2003 to Oct 2007** Cross-Stitch Design Program Operator at DMC Creative World Ltd, Leicester. UK.
- Feb 1996 to Oct 1997** Aviation industry trained Technical Artist and Animator at Computerised Training Systems Ltd, Scunthorpe, UK.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- 2008 – 2016** PhD in Electronic Music Performance at De Montfort University.  
*Physical Interaction with Electronic Instruments in Devised Performance.*
- 2007 – 2008** MA in Music, Technology and Innovation at De Montfort University.
- 1998 – 2002** BA(Hons) Multimedia Design at De Montfort University.
- 1997 – 1998** Art Foundation at The University of Derby.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Conference Papers

Bowers, Richards, Spowage, Topley, Frize et al (2016) One Knob To Rule Them All: Reductionist Interfaces for Expansionist Research. In: *The Proceedings for New Interfaces for Musical Expression Conference*, 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Brisbane, Australia. **NIME BEST PAPER AWARD 2016.**

Spowage, N (2013) The Speaker Bra With Wireless Shovel In: *The Proceedings for Fascinate Conference*, 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, Falmouth University, UK.

Tanaka A, Spowage N, Altavilla A, (2012) Gestural Musical Affordances, *Sound and Music Computing Conference Proceedings 2012*, 11-14 July 2012, Aalborg University Copenhagen

Spowage, N (2009) The Ghetto Bastard, A Portable Noise Instrument, In: *New Instruments for Musical Expression*, 4-6<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Carnegie Mellon University

Spowage, N (2009) SUGAR, CD Album *With The Screaming Banshee Aircrew*

**Pending Article for 2017:** Now I am Digital, Where is My Ritual? *Exploring Post Digital Performance Objects as Totems for Agency and Ritual.*

### Contributions

Collins, N (2009) *Handmade Electronic Music*, 2nd ed., Routledge.

## SELECTED RESIDENCIES/TALKS (ATTENDED, PARTICIPATED AND GIVEN)

### **Now I'm Digital, Where Is My Ritual: Investigating Post Digital Performance Objects**

- Presentation at C21 Music Practices: Sound & Vision Symposium, London South Bank University. April 2017
- Art and Sound Symposium. De Montfort University, June 2017

### **Artists Masterclass**

Presentation and workshop at Brunel University. 2017.

### **New Track of Unknown Terra II**

Presentation of at *Haptic Narratives - Textural Exploration in Film* at Greenwich University, UK. Organised by TiMaDi (Time, Materiality and the Digital Research Group). 2015.

### **Speaker Bra and Shovel sculptural instrument**

Presentation of at Fascinate Conference at Falmouth University, UK. 2013.

### **Dirty Electronics Workshop for Trinity Laban co Lab**

Workshop at Laban Conservatoire for Dance, London. 2013.

### **Object Trouve, Electronic Sculptural Instruments and Performances.**

Seminar and workshop at Bournemouth University. 2012.

### **Object Trouve, Electronic sculptural Instruments and Performances.**

Artists Talk at STEIM centre for research, Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Electronic Dumbbell project and Live Electronics. 2011.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

I design, build and compose with Sculptural Electronic Musical Instruments made from acquired objects and junk electronics. I realise works with them using the disciplines of Dance, Video Art and Live Art. My research interests include collaborative relationships, negotiating expertise between disciplines, gender dynamics in performance and long term collaboration, movement, interaction, sculpture, objects as totems, live performance, perception, video documentation as art, the body and choreography. I use whatever media and technology is suitable to realise a concept, meaning that I am an idea led post digital intermedia and trans-disciplinary artist with extensive investigative and problem solving skills. My strong interest in DIY culture and interaction has helped me realise my projects from an artistic starting point and given me tools to create engaging live performances through sculpture and non-verbal utterance while experimenting with the dialectic or dualistic application of didactic and trance like performance states.

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

**Noise Loop Bootstrap Paradox** at

- 'Launderette by the Sea' (Jan Jun and Dirty Electronics) at Centrala Gallery Birmingham, UK. November 2016
- Scaledown #129 at King and Queen, Fitzrovia, London, May 2017.

**DAP-Lab: Metakimosphere no. 3 collaboration** (immersive installation-performance) sculptor at Brunel University, UK. 2016

**New Track of Unknown Terra II** at Haptic Narratives – Textural Exploration in Film at Greenwich University. Organised by TiMaDi (Time, Materiality and the Digital Research Group). 2015.

**Pensile Decumbent** at Reaktorhallen, Stockholm, Sweden With Dirty Electronics Ensemble and KMH (Royal School of Music). 2014.

**Frozen Venus** with Danai Pappa at

- Agony art, Chisenhale Dance Space, Mile End, London. March 2013.
- Music and/as Process Conference, Huddersfield University, June 2013.

**Cold Papaya** with Danai Pappa at Fascinate Conference at Falmouth University, UK. August 2013.

**For Gentle Fire** With John Richards and the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at PIONEERS OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC, hosted by NON CLASSICAL at XOYO, London. 2013.

**sib Conduit** with Danai Pappa at the Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music, Queens University, Belfast, UK. 2012.

## COMPOSED WORKS

**Ariel Ariel (2016-17, work in progress)** A Dance and Noise Sculpture collaboration with choreographer and dancer Danai Pappa as a part of an artistic curation by Sonya Russell-Saunders called "It Takes One to Know One" funded by Curatorial Development Bursary, New Art West Midlands - Art Market.

**Transfer of Power (2016-17, work in progress)** A solo work and continuation of my research from 'One Knob To Rule Them All' (see publications) that investigates and develops movements that convey the themes of physicality, labour, transfer of power, totemism and the contrary (or not?) dualistic application of didactic and trance like performance states.

**Noise Loop Boot Strap Paradox (2016-17)** A solo work that focuses on the absurdity of assuming ones work is original through inappropriate spoken word and sound artefacts created by an 'un-wearable wearable'; an electromagnetic lampshade boot. It is a response to Jan Jun's essay 'The Laundromat by the Sea'.

**Dis-Comforting (2015)** Fixed media sound commission for fashion designer Ania Sadkowska used for Crafting Anatomies Exhibition, Nottingham Trent University 2015 and Dis-comforting Fashion film which was **FIRST PRIZE WINNER** POLIMODA & ASVOFF Video Contest For

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IFFTI2015 (International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institute) annual conference in Florence, Italy which is organised by the international fashion institute, Polimoda: MOMENTING THE MEMENTO.

I also composed sound for eight other fashion films that were directed and produced by Ania Sadkowska and edited by Fraser West for her PhD and MA work:

**Peacocking (2015) Pioneering (2015) Presenting (2015) Re-Materialising (2015)**

**Un-Fashioning (2015) Non-Conforming (2015) Mirroring (2014)**

**Dys-Appearing Body Project (2012)**

**Pensile Decumbent (2015)** A Filmed Performance demonstrating the Pensile Decumbent wearable sculptural instrument in an industrial landscape.

**New Track of Unknown Terra II (2015)** A Filmed Performance demonstrating the Beast sculptural instrument in an industrial landscape.

**New Track of Unknown Terra (2014)** A Filmed Live Art Performance demonstrating the Beast sculptural instrument in a public space.

**Cold Papaya (2013)** Collaboration with choreographer Danai Pappa – A Live duet for Speaker Bra with Wireless Shovel. **SHORTLISTED for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in June 2015.** <https://vimeo.com/101931339>

**Frozen Venus (2013)** Collaboration with choreographer Danai Pappa– A live piece for two dancers and six electronic Plungerphone Instruments. **SHORTLISTED for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in June 2015.** <https://vimeo.com/71087869>

**Ode to the Hedonistic and Utilitarian Carnival Children of the Constructivist Revolution (2012)** – For five Plungerphone instruments. Composed for and performed by the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at Phoenix Square, Leicester. <http://snd.sc/1ajd34l>

**Scratch and Sniff (2012)** Composed with John Richards and the Dirty Electronics Ensemble.

**sib Conduit (2011)** Collaboration with choreographer Danai Pappa – A live piece for two dancers and two Electronic Dumbell Instruments. <http://youtu.be/a1VbmyUH9IM>

**You Play Together but Act Apart (2009-10)** – Composed for and performed by the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at De Montfort University in 2009. <http://snd.sc/OppfUX>

**Commercial CD album 'SUGAR', (2009) With The Screaming Banshee Aircrew**

**Twelve songs** (*Being Alison, Circles, Cool Ghoul Band, Promised, Kind of Crazy, Shutter, Silence, Falling Down, Sugar, So Sorry, Saharan Stars, What I Want, The Birthday Song*) on Resurrection Records, recorded and engineered by Jim Spencer (Cribs/Johnny Marr/Damned/Black Grape) at Chapel Studios, Lincolnshire. Published in Europe through Plastic Head Distribution

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