

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE: 'Don't Leave Me This Way'; Accessing and Activating Challenging Archives

10.15-10.45 Registration. (Tea & Coffee)

The morning sessions will introduce Franko B and his archive, broadening discussion out to the various challenges - ethical, legal and practical - that archivists face in coming to terms with caring for, cataloguing and making widely accessible 'challenging' archives.

10.45-10.50 Welcome. Gary Topp: Director, Arnolfini

10.50-11.00 Introduction to the *Challenging Archives* project to catalogue, conserve and make accessible the Franko B archive. Jo Elsworth: Director, University of Bristol Theatre Collection

11.00 -11.30 From Practice to Archive. Franko B and Lois Keidan: Director of the Live Art Development Agency, in conversation

11.30-12.00 Meeting the Challenges of Archiving Franko B's Collection. Dr. Siân Williams: *Challenging Archives* project archivist & Julian Warren: Keeper of Digital and Live Art Archives, University of Bristol Theatre Collection

12.00 – 13.00 Panel Discussion and Q&A: Working with Challenging Archives
Stephen Gray, Head of Library Research Support, University of Bristol (Chair)
Dr. Siân Williams, *Challenging Archives* project archivist, UoB Theatre Collection
Julian Warren, Keeper of Digital and Live Art Archives, UoB Theatre Collection
Stef Dickers, Special Collections and Archives Manager, Bishopsgate Institute, London
Nicky Sugar, Archivist for the British Empire & Commonwealth Collections, Bristol Archives
Chris Olver, Archivist, Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, Putney, London

13.00-14.00 Lunch (not provided, but there are plenty of eateries and cafes close-by)

The afternoon sessions provide an opportunity to widen the discussion to explore opportunities for engaging audiences with challenging archives, for creative use within teaching, research, writing, curating and programming.

14.00 - 14.30 Love On Me: Life and Death in Jon John's Archive. Dominic Johnson, Professor of Performance and Visual Culture, Queen Mary University, London

14.30 – 15.00 Reading/Performance from Challenging Archives project Writers-in-Residence performance, Mary Paterson and Maddy Costa

15.00 -15.30 Performance Remains. Reaction, compliance, defiance. So that your story becomes mine. Helen Cole, CEO/Artistic Director, In Between Time

15.30 – 16.00 Tea Break

16.00 – 17.00 Panel Discussion and Q&A: Engaging with Challenging Archives
Gary Topp, Director, Arnolfini (Chair)
Dominic Johnson, Professor of Performance and Visual Culture, Queen Mary University
Lois Keidan, Director of Live Art Development Agency (LADA)
Helen Cole, Director of In Between Time
Mary Paterson & Maddy Costa, *Challenging Archives* Writers-in-Residence
Jo Elsworth, Director, UoB Theatre Collection

17.00 – 18.00 Closing Remarks, followed by Drinks Reception

Speaker Biographies

Gary Topp Gary Topp is Director of Arnolfini, Bristol. He has led a series of cultural and third sector organisations over the last twenty years across the UK and in Australia alongside a portfolio of Board roles.

Jo Elsworth has been Director of the University of Bristol [Theatre Collection](#) since 2008, a role she currently combines with Director of Cultural Collections, focusing on the development of the New University Library. She is the project lead for *Challenging Archives*, and has recently led projects for the Theatre Collection including, *Sharing the Messel Magic* and the *Bristol Old Vic Heritage* project, in partnership with Bristol Archives and Bristol Old Vic.

Franko B is a visual artist and Professor of Sculpture at l'Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti di Torino. His archive containing more than 30 years of material relating to his performances, exhibitions, screenings, visual art, collaborations and his work as a curator, lecturer and mentor is held at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection.

Lois Keidan has been Director of the [Live Art Development Agency](#) (LADA) since she co-founded the organisation in 1999. Between 1992 and 1997 she was responsible for the live arts programme at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, programming Franko B's first performance there, 'Mama I Can't Sing' in 1995. In 1998 she contributed to the first monograph on Franko B, published by Black Dog, and in 2018 LADA published Franko's memoir 'Because of Love'.

Sian Williams is Project Archivist for the Franko B archive, University of Bristol [Theatre Collection](#). Before training to be an archivist, Sian completed a PhD at the University of Southampton in the social and cultural history of the Royal Navy in the Caribbean which won the Wellington Prize in 2015.

Julian Warren is Keeper of Digital and Live Art Archives, University of Bristol [Theatre Collection](#). He has previously worked as Arnolfini's archivist and was City Archivist at Bristol Archives from 2014 – 2017.

Stephen Gray is the [Head of Library Research Support](#) at the University of Bristol. This involves running a repository of data ranging from medical scans to archaeological specimens. Stephen worked for Tate as a new media conservator before coming to the University.

Stef Dickers is the Special Collections and Archives Manager at [Bishopsgate Institute](#), London, and looks after its numerous and renowned collections on London, Radical, Protest and Queer history. Since 2016, he has curated the UK Leather and Fetish Archives at the Institute; an ever-growing project to document and archive the history and heritage of fetish, kink and BDSM in the UK.

Nicky Sugar is one of two Archivists for the [British Empire and Commonwealth Collections](#) held at Bristol Archives. She was previously Head of Archives and Records Management at the Royal Holloway, University of London and is a Clore Leadership Fellow.

Chris Olver is the Archivist of the [Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability](#) in Putney, London. He has been a professional archivist since 2012 and has previously worked at King's College London, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Kew Gardens predominantly on medical and scientific collections. Since 2015, he has served as the Vice-Chair of the [Health Archives and Records Group](#) (HARG).

Dominic Johnson is Professor of Performance and Visual Culture at [Queen Mary University](#) of London. He is the author of 5 books on art and performance, and the editor of several books including the career survey *Franko B: Blinded By Love* (2006)

Mary Paterson is an artist, writer and producer who works in collaboration with people and disciplines. Recent projects include co-editing (with Roberta Mock) the book *Joshua Sofaer: Performance | Objects | Participation* (Intellect & The Live Art Development Agency, 2020), and developing a new book about duets, with the artist Karen Christopher.

Maddy Costa does all her best work in collaboration with other people, taking various roles including dramaturg, researcher, conversation host, mentor and writer. She mostly publishes online, with [Exeunt](#), [Something Other](#), the [Department of Feminist Conversations](#), and on her own blog, [slow fade](#).

Helen Cole is the founding Artistic Director and CEO of [In Between Time](#). She previously worked as producer of Arnolfini's Live programme (1998-2009) and at Tramway, Glasgow (1996-1998). Since 2008 she has created a series of digital archive-performance works, 'We See Fireworks' (2009), using audience memories, 'Breathe' (2014), gathering recordings of hundreds of private solo dancers dancing from exuberance to exhaustion, and 'We Are Warriors' (2018) gathering the individual voices of 130 womxn and girls.



Theatre Collection



A 45-minute screening of newly digitised material from Franko B's archive, filmed over Franko's extensive career, can be viewed today, and throughout the weekend in Arnolfini's Dark Studio.

The exhibition of Franko B's archive 'The Body is (not) Here' at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection, 21 Park Row (a 10 minute walk from Arnolfini) will stay open late this evening until 7.00pm, for anyone who would like to visit following the symposium.