



Introduction and context

Solo 30x30 is a 30-minute *in situ* piece that takes place outdoors, in the same location every day, at the same time, for 30 days. The setting, right in the heart of the city and its activities, is an unusual one for dance, so it provides an opportunity for a different type of encounter between the artist and his urban audience.

Nine hundred minutes of intimacy between a man and a city. A unique environmental encounter with a man who dances. Paul-André Fortier proposes a controlled drift in an urban landscape in which his dance becomes part of the street scene, rain or shine. A chance encounter with an illusory street person.

Since it was first created in 2006, *Solo 30x30* has been seen in 13 cities on three continents, including Newcastle (UK), Nancy (France), Ottawa (Canada), Yamaguchi (Japan), Montreal (Canada), Bolzano (Italy), London (UK), Rome (Italy), and Lyon (France), Vancouver (Canada), Lorient (France), New York (United States), Liege (Belgium). Photos, videos, comments and articles from each section of the tour can be viewed on the blog: <http://fortiedanse.blogspot.com>

Paul-André Fortier regularly invites visual artists and other performers to participate in his work. *Solo 30x30* is another example of this continuing meshing of artistic disciplines, as it involves the participation of one or more artists in each venue.

- **Newcastle, England, 2006 - Dance City**
- *Solo 30x30*, a film by Clare Tavernor, PAL and NTSC DVD, 7 min.

Clare Tavernor's film presents a poetic view of Paul-André Fortier's performance and the city of Newcastle itself. The theme is the "pulse" of the dancer, the city, and the person behind the camera. *"I wanted to represent the multiple journeys that we make every day, and look at what happens when this flow is interrupted. Paul-André Fortier's performance itself blocked this flow and caused people to stop and examine the space around them."* – Clare Tavernor.

Artist Clare Tavernor was born in Belfast and lives currently in England. A former project manager for production companies and director of several experimental documentary films, her current focus is the creation of installations and projections in collaboration with other artists. She has exhibited her work in numerous venues across the country, including the Waygood Art Gallery, the Newcastle Art Centre and The Side Cinema. She has also acted as VJ at concerts in the UK and abroad.

- **Nancy, France, 2006 - CCN Ballet de Lorraine and Centre Culturel André Malraux, SN de Vandœuvre**

- *Travail en cours*, a film by Daniel Denise, PAL and NTSC DVD, 54 min.

Daniel Denise suggested that Paul André Fortier expand his reach, by seeking out some of the places and people who make up the social fabric of Nancy. This proposal was concretized by a brief dance performance in 30 different locations representing a variety of occupations: a fire station, factory, bakery, restaurant kitchen, garage, etc.

Daniel Denise lives and works in Nancy. After graduating in 1987 with a fine arts degree from the *École nationale des Beaux-Arts de Nancy*, his work initially revolved around humorous photo self-portraits. Today he uses various media to express himself: photography, video, text, sound, sculpture and installation. He works on both solo projects, the latest of which is entitled *Stanislas Urbi & Orbi*, and on group projects, including *Inventaire du Musée du Bonheur*, *La marche du temps*, and *Par nature*.

- *30x30 – Poursuite*, film of a visual installation by Samuel Bianchini, PAL and NTSC DVD, 30 min.

The Thiers tower dominates downtown Nancy. Samuel Bianchini and his students chose to create an original visual work in connection with Paul-André Fortier's *Solo 30x30* using this building, which has such a strong presence in the city's landscape. Inspired by the solo choreography, computer-generated beams are projected onto the building and change constantly. The light sweeps, flashes, stops and starts, giving a somewhat human behaviour to the machine. This work was presented the night following the final performance of *Solo 30x30* in Nancy. The DVD captures this event on film.

Samuel Bianchini's work questions the impact of interactive media on how we represent and relate to reality. He works with scientists and computer research labs and is a member of CRECA-LAM (*Centre de recherches d'esthétique du cinéma et des arts audiovisuels - Laboratoire des arts et médias* at the Sorbonne) and Citu (*Création interactive transdisciplinaire universitaire*). He is also a lecturer at the *Université de Valenciennes* and teaches at the *École nationale supérieure d'art de Nancy*. His work is regularly exhibited in France and abroad.

- **Yamaguchi, Japan, 2006 – Yamaguchi Centre for Arts and Media**

- *A man on the Bridge*, a film by Atsushi Tanabe, NTSC and PAL DVD, 30min.

- *Photography* by Rumi Tanabe, CD-ROM

Atsushi Tanabe deconstructed *Solo 30X30* to make his own film version, using different angles and shots to parallel certain passages of the choreography. He recomposed the solo in chronological order, movement for movement, but in different settings. This film was shown as part of an exhibition at the Yamaguchi Center for the Arts and Media along with photographs by Rumi Tanabe.

To see the exhibition: <http://fortierdanse.blogspot.com/search/label/Exposition%20Yamaguchi>

Atsushi Tanabe creates video installations, directs artistic television commercials and does graphic design. In 2001, he produced two videos entitled *Invitations to Time's Corridor* and *Photographing Agriculture*. Following a few group exhibitions, he had his first solo exhibitions in 2002, including an educational program on art appreciation. Tanabe Atsushi also directed films as part of the 52nd exhibition of the Yamaguchi Art Museum and the fifth Hagi Independent Film Festival. He was recently involved in the Nakahara Chuya Memorial Museum video project.

Rumi Tanabe is a photographer who was born in Yamaguchi. Her exhibition, *A Man on the Bridge*, was presented in 2007 at YCAM. She began photographing friends who were models at a very young age. From 1990 to 2000, she worked as a professional diver, mainly in Thailand. On her return to Japan in 2002, she resumed her photography career.

- **Montreal, 2006 – Place des Arts**

- ***Body Echoes*, a film by Thien Vu Dang and Martin Laporte in collaboration with Defasten - NTSC and PAL DVD, 4 min.**

Thien Vu Dang and Martin Laporte used *Solo 30X30* as a starting point to explore the theme of landscape in movement. They used the dancer's quest as an allegory, making the most of 3D technology. This film made its debut in the new media and has been viewed worldwide.

Thien Vu Dang, alias VJ Pillow, is constantly seeking new ways to communicate through image and sound. He is involved in the arts community, and also works for the *Société des Arts Technologiques* in Montreal. His videos have been screened at many events in Montreal and abroad.

Martin Laporte's photographs appear regularly in magazines such as *Elle*, *Vice*, and *Ocean Drive*. He has also produced promotional photos and videos for many well known artists. Martin Laporte won a Félix for his video clip of *La vie est laide* by Jean Leloup.

- **Spontaneous creations around *Solo 30x30* (not planned by Fortier Danse-Création or the presenter):**

1) Artist's book by Guylaine Massoutre. Author Guylaine Massoutre wrote about *Solo 30x30*, and her writings were presented in the form of an artist's book. Pages from her book, *L'atelier du danseur* (2004), were used as well as photographs by Ginelle Chagnon. Visual artist Pierre Bruneau also worked on the presentation of the material and the paper base.

Guylaine Massoutre is an accomplished teacher, critic, and author. She completed her doctorate in contemporary literature at the *Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)*, and received the Raymond-Klibansky Prize for her book entitled *Hubert Aquin: Point de fuite* (1995). She also wrote an essay on dance entitled *L'atelier du danseur*, which won the Spirale-Eva-Le-Grand essay prize. Guylaine Massoutre contributed to the book, *Anatomie du vertige: Ginette Laurin, vingt ans de création*. For many years, she has published papers on literature and dance, and has been a regular contributor to the daily newspaper *Le Devoir*, and to the quarterly magazine *Jeu: Cahiers de théâtre*.

2) Article on *Solo 30x30*, in the book *Champagne* by Monique Proulx, published in 2008 by éditions Boréal.

3) Photographs by Robert Etcheverry

Robert Etcheverry is a professional photographer in Montreal who specializes in the performing arts, especially dance.

- **London, UK, 2007 – Dance Umbrella Festival**
 - **Musical composition (percussion), by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, available soon.**

Six composition students, directed by Ed Finnis of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, were chosen to compose short pieces inspired by Paul-André Fortier's *Solo 30x30*. The compositions, based mainly on electronic sound and percussion, were performed in the Great Hall of Bishopsgate Institute at a special indoor extra performance of *Solo 30x30*.

The Guildhall School of Music and Drama is one of Europe's leading conservatoires, offering musicians, actors, stage managers and theatre technicians an inspiring environment in which to develop as artists and professionals. The school first opened its doors in 1880.

- Photographs by Hugo Glendinning, available soon

Hugo Glendinning's work in connection with *Solo 30x30* focused on the environment (architecture, space, crowds etc...). He photographed several performances and then chose to exhibit a single photograph. This was a deliberate choice by the artist. He feels that in this digital age, the trend is to continuously accumulate information and images. In this case, the artist's viewpoint is illustrated by a single photograph.

Hugo Glendinning has been a photographer for twenty years. He works mainly in the field of art and culture, producing portraits and photos of performances. He has worked with some of the leading dance and theatre companies in the UK.

- **Rome, Italy, 2007 – Romaeuropa Festival**
 - ***Around Fortier*, a video creation for three screens by Emiliano Campagnola – PAL DVD, 30 min.**

Emiliano Campagnola created a multiscreen work about *Solo 30x30*. He focused mainly on the atmosphere around the performances, and also incorporated images of Paul-André Fortier's avatar in motion. The avatar was shown in the virtual online world called *Second Life*, at the same time as the actual solo was taking place in Rome.

Emiliano Campagnola is a video and multimedia artist who lives in Rome and is a graduate of the *Centre expérimental de Cinéma*. He began his career in advertising and the theatre. He also directed a documentary, before setting up *Vite*, an experimental production studio for digital theatre, in association with the University of Rome 3. He is particularly interested in the interaction between new media and live theatre.

- **Lyon, France, 2008 – Romaeuropa Festival**
 - ***30 jours avec Paul-André Fortier*, a video creation by Fabien Plasson – available soon**

Video artist Fabien Plasson shadowed Paul-André Fortier as he danced, creating a daily video record of his performances. Each video was broadcast that day at the Commodities Exchange, where the *Biennale de la danse de*

Lyon took place. This film is a compilation in which new images are incorporated daily into the footage from the previous day. The final version gives 30 different views of the artist, his choreography and his surroundings.

Fabien Plasson is a videographer who lives in Lyon. He makes films for artists involved in dance and music. Since 2001, he has worked for the *Maison de la Danse* in Lyon, and has been involved in programming for the Vidéo-Bar.

- **Être sans être, Paul-André Fortier, a photo exhibition by Virginie Gaudin and Vincent Ramet. Photo CD.**

An exhibition of 30 photos was installed in the *Maison de la Danse* by photographers Virginie Gaudin and Vincent Ramet. They created portraits of Paul-André Fortier, plus photographs of his hands and feet as well as those of his audience. The couple then invited some of the viewers they met at the performance into their studio, where they were photographed reproducing a movement of the choreography. <http://etresansetre.blogspot.com/>

Virginie Gaudin and Vincent Ramet are professional photographers who live and work together in Lyon. They use image and installation to develop the artistic aspect of their work.

- **Vancouver, Canada, 2009 – Dancing on the Edge Festival**
 - **The Response, a dance improvisation by choreographer and dancer Peter Bingham**

In Vancouver, for the first time, the artistic collaboration took the form of a dance. Vancouver choreographer and dancer Peter Bingham attended *Solo 30x30* almost every day and then prepared a danced response immediately after Paul-André Fortier's last performance of the solo. A video of this double performance is available.

Born in 1951, Peter Bingham is a Vancouver choreographer and performer. He is artistic director of the dance company EDAM.

- **2006 Solo 30x30 tour**
 - **Journal d'un danseur nomade, a documentary film by Yannick B. Gélinas - Betacam and NTSC DVD - 51 min.**

The 2006 tour of *Solo 30x30* gave rise to a documentary film, *Journal d'un danseur nomade*, directed by Yannick B. Gélinas. Filmed successively in Newcastle (UK), Nancy (France), Ottawa, Yamaguchi (Japan) and Montreal, the narration consists of excerpts from the choreographer's diary. The viewer follows the adventures of *Solo 30x30* and is witness to its travels, the vagaries of the weather, chance encounters and the choreographer's emotions. This film is an outstanding, beautifully edited account that lets the dance itself shine. Yannick B. Gélinas' vision is a sensitive one that reveals the poetry of the *Solo 30x30* project.

Yannick B. Gélinas is a director of videos and new media. She has a BA in communications (film) and a master's degree in multimedia from UQÀM. Her special interests are contemporary dance and poetry.

- **Lorient, France, April 2010**

- **The photo project of Stéphane Adam**

During all the *Solo 30x30*, the photographer Stéphane Adam took pictures of the performances. Quite often, one of these pictures, in big size format, was displayed on a wall as a background creating interesting *mise en abîme* effects. Archaeology of the dancer's residence, the photos were superimposed giving depth to the space and keeping the memory of this ephemeral dance that lived in the neighbourhood everyday for 30 minutes.

<http://fortierdanse.blogspot.com/>

- **900 seconds, a sound creation around the Solo 30x30**

How did the *Solo 30x30* transform the sounds of a location? What's the impact on everyday's life? What emerged from the musical chords of the city? La Compagnie des Ondes sent out "sound bandits" to record the dancer's steps, the audience's whispers, the passersby's exclamations, and the city's mutterings...30 sound clips of 30 seconds each have been broadcasted in the Hall of Le Grand Théâtre de Lorient.

Place of sound and radio experiments created in 2006, the association La Compagnie des Ondes is a participative media project based on sharing knowledge and skills. It leads spaces dedicated to creation, production, touring, initiation and training.

- **New York, N Y, July-August 2010**

- **The Big Draw Flash Mob**

The Joyce Theater and Arts Brookfield Properties present Paul-Andre Fortier's *Solo 30 x 30* as part of the River to River Festival. Fortier's 30-minute dance performance is presented in the same location, at the same time every day from July 16–August 14, 2010. On August 11, The Drawing Center invites you to join The Big Draw Flash Mob and draw Fortier in motion! Stop by on your lunch break or after a walk through Battery Park and make a sketch on an old shopping list or the back of your morning meeting's agenda. And don't forget to take photos of your drawings and post them to The Drawing Center's Facebook page!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-NY/The-Drawing-Center/73723368486>

- **Liege, Belgium, September 2010**

- **Photos contest**

During the *Solo 30x30*'s performances, spectators were invited to create their most beautiful digital camera. A selection of the 30 best portraits of Paul-André Fortier was made by professional judges and resulted in an exhibition in October 2010. The top 3 photos received a prize offered by BASE and Le Théâtre de la Place (GSM and theater tickets).