

DOIN' DIRT TIME

Performed by Philip Ralph, Fern Smith and surprise local guest artist

Based on a transcript of an astonishing interview by internationally renowned arts commentator Suzi Gablik in her book *Conversations Before the End Of Time*. In "Doin' Dirt Time" Gablik speaks to Rachel Dutton and Rob Olds, two celebrated American artists who made the decision to give away all their artworks and possessions. Following the interview and an intensive study of tracking and survival skills they disappeared into the American wilderness. This powerful piece questions the role of the arts in society as the two protagonists explain their reasons for not only stepping out of the art world but also stepping out of society itself. They fundamentally question the traditional role of the artist, articulating their desire to live life as a sacred act rather than to simply document it.

Fern Smith & Philip Ralph play Dutton and Olds, with a guest local artist taking the part of the interviewer Suzi Gablik. Fern Smith is co-founder of Volcano Theatre and Emergence. Philip Ralph trained as an actor before turning to writing. His first play *Deepcut* won the Amnesty Freedom of Expression Award in 2009.

Doin' Dirt Time is performed with the blessing of Suzi Gablik and in some way is intended to bring new audiences to Gablik's inspirational body of work - essential reading for artists, activists and ecologists.

Doin' Dirt Time is itself an experiment in simplicity, a stripped back theatre which dispenses with the smoke and mirrors of performance in order to focus on the essentials... It uses a fascinating technique in which actors interpret verbatim recordings in real time.

Followed by a short discussion. The performance and discussion last roughly seventy-five minutes.

"If the real question is, "What is our task?" I suppose our task is, at the very least, to be constantly vigilant in considering what our task is, rather than mindlessly pursuing our own agendas". Suzi Gablik – The Re-enchantment of Art.

***"We are deeply touched by your experiences and the dialogue that our words are still generating, and we are deeply moved that your journeys and ours are now joined."* Rachel Dutton & Rob Olds**