

For the Moving Forest Act 0 'Omen' the Hexists summoned the 3 witches in Macbeth and their prophetic signals to the powerful, the hubristically ambitious as well as the revolting mass. If Macbeth can be thought of as a machinic text then it is the witches who are the switch that release the coiled spring, turning the established order upside down. It is a high risk endeavour invoking these Macbethian witches - many in the world of theatre and magic would consider it an invitation for ruinous trouble.

Still, we decided that the lost river of the Hackney Brook, now largely a sewer mains, would serve as our principle prophetic guide through which we would construct a score, another machinic device for divination, but also with a live transmission in mind, as all constituent Acts of the Moving Forest were required to deliver a live element.

Given that flows of urban rivers usually mirror the flows of capital, what laws of probability could have predicted that the 2012 Olympics would be sited at the River Lea, where the Hackney Brook ended its course? If the 2012 Olympics can be thought of as a machine, was the Hackney Brook an historically incipient variable that summoned it into place?

In walking the Hackney Brook layers of time unfold on a topography that covers, amongst many features, paleolithic settlements near Stoke Newington Common, an Anglo Saxon pond on Mare Street where the Danish chieftain Haca installed his tribe, a radical politics of anti-slavery buried in the Abney Park Cemetary and a wasteland of industrial innovation and social poverty in Homerton and Hackney Wick.

Much of the score is constructed by these historical, topographical narratives, some of which have references to tragic pop music figures such as Joe Meek and Marc Bolan. The score also includes other references to the prophetic imaginary in sci-fi, film, music and literature such as Philip K Dick, Pasolini and, ofcourse, Kurosawa's 'Throne of Blood', the key text of the Moving Forest. There are allusions to trees as language, the London riots of 2011, conversations with demonic bureaucrats using databases to track the moving forests of immigrant labour.

Time and timing is a critical element in Act 0 'Omen' – it can take a millenia to move a forest and more to shift a social consciousness – it rarely happens at a scheduled time and scheduled place or if it does it usually results in sacrificial violence, or death. Any good witch knows that successful spells are a process, cast after a certain amount of research, experimentation and knowledge accumulation - false starts are part of the practice. The rewards are great when the walk is begun at the beginning and continued – no short cuts, no capitulation to the seduction of spectacle or sensation, but a continuous movement that

does not stop until the poetry reveals itself through the topography and its signals. The Wetherspoons Underground Sykogeosofy Club have been traversing the lost rivers of London for over two years and it's their radical walking practice towards both a sociopolitical history and metaphysics of London which this particular spell/score owes much.

A critical factor in the live transmission, broadcast between 9am and 11am on July 4th, was the electromagnetic divinations conducted on the walk by John Wild which relayed back to Thibault Autheman, the Pythian oracle in the Delphic temple of Resonance FM, who then released his live algorithmic 'outputs' triggered by the electromagnetic relays, intervening on the linear pre-prepared score which had been on repeat for 9 hours overnight. John and Thibault's performance elevated the walk to something which can be described as an 'artwork', rather than just a walk.

Equally, the live invocations of Robin Bale at significant points of the Hackney Brook performed on a separate walk with the WUSC produced moments of transformation, rather than just an 'artwork'.

The pre-prepared score starts with the voice Joe Meek, an iconic figure in sound engineering, persecuted for his, then illegal, homosexuality but subsequently celebrated for his music production genius made manifest in the home music studio on Holloway Rd, near to the origins of the Hackney Brook.

Score for the Hackney Brook, River Oracle

Act 0 'Omen' for the Moving Forest London 2012

1. Introduction 'Output 1'
2. Omen Section 1 'Output 3 and 4'
3. Omen Section 1 'Output 5'

# Credits

The Hexists

Kayle Brandon and Rachel Baker

Thibault Autheman

John Wild

The Wetherspons Underground Sykogeosophy Club

Robin Bale

Nicola Woodward

The Moving Forest Players

Furtherfield