

fly ing together

TO TEAM FLYING AND BACK AGAIN

by Carl Robertshaw

THESE ARE SHOW NOTES FROM THE EVENT, NOT
THE ORIGINAL HANDOUT

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS
WORKSHOP PUT ON BY CARL ROBERTSHAW
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY WHAT YOU HAVE
LEARNED AND DISCUSSED. IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS, DON'T HESITATE TO
EMAIL US AT

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The Hatchling

- Designing this Puppet and artistic structure that unfolds and grows through out the weekend in the city
- Working together with others to make this magic happen
- It is like a Pied Piper, it collects people, it involves the full community that it is in
- It grows through out the day, it is a continuous performance. The dragon moves throughout the day, then it goes to sleep at night and transforms during the night.
- There is about 30 kite fliers that take over from the puppeteers at the final transition where the dragon flies off into the night.
- It is the same structure throughout the whole process
- The city saw the whole thing as very uplifting, it brought the soul of the city back during a moment of crisis.



- **The Super Bowl half time show 2014**
- The most viewed music event in the world
- Coldplay - Beyoncé - Bruno Mars - Mark Ronson
- High stakes - pressures & constraints
- Several months in the design and getting approvals = 4 days to make the props
 - this is where the relationships and the respect for one another comes together. It helped with the printing and getting everything made
- 3 days before - cast of over 2,000 volunteers = 3 hours set up
- With organisation and practice = 8 minutes on the day
- The team that produces the super bowl knows how to do these things.
 - organizing things, desnagging management, tightening up the choreography of everything

- **Scratch Bunnies**
- Conceived in 2004 as a scratch team to boost the competition circuit in the UK.
- Made up of 7 friends - whoever was available for a competition weekend.
- 2006 - Won the UK and European championships
- we started getting serious - I started designing the Fury and sport kites.
- Within the team, we had over 150 years of competitive sport kite experience
 - lets use it and really put it in
- Won the World Championships, 2010, 2012, 2014
- Each time with a different combination of members,
 - which brings different criteria / energy / ambition
 - it is where the venn diagram of everyone overlaps is what makes up the team at that moment
- The primary intention was to remain friends after competing



Airkraft - 1993 / first year came 2nd at WC

- Perception of seriousness and aloofness
- “We aren’t here to entertain you, we are here to win”
- 1994 / 2nd year - wrote the Ride of the Valkyries
- First team to do Axels together
- North Sea Cup - came in 18 points ahead of 2nd place. That’s how big the routine was
- Switzerland at Euro’s - DQ’d precision (twice!) came 2nd after the combined score - Doing Walking Sticks and the Full Radar back we flew over the line.
- World Cup Le Touquet - the reputation preceded us
 - favourites to win
 - - 35pmh but the guy doing the wind check at his location was reading 8mph
 - car park
 - We got involved in the politics, Team Tsunami didn’t
 - We focused on complaining, Tsunami pulled out high wind lines and paired down their routine
 - results night, the congratulations, then.....
 - 2nd place Biggest Lesson
- Don’t focus on winning (the finite result) focus on something bigger
- The Audience can be the mirror, they reflect back what they saw of you



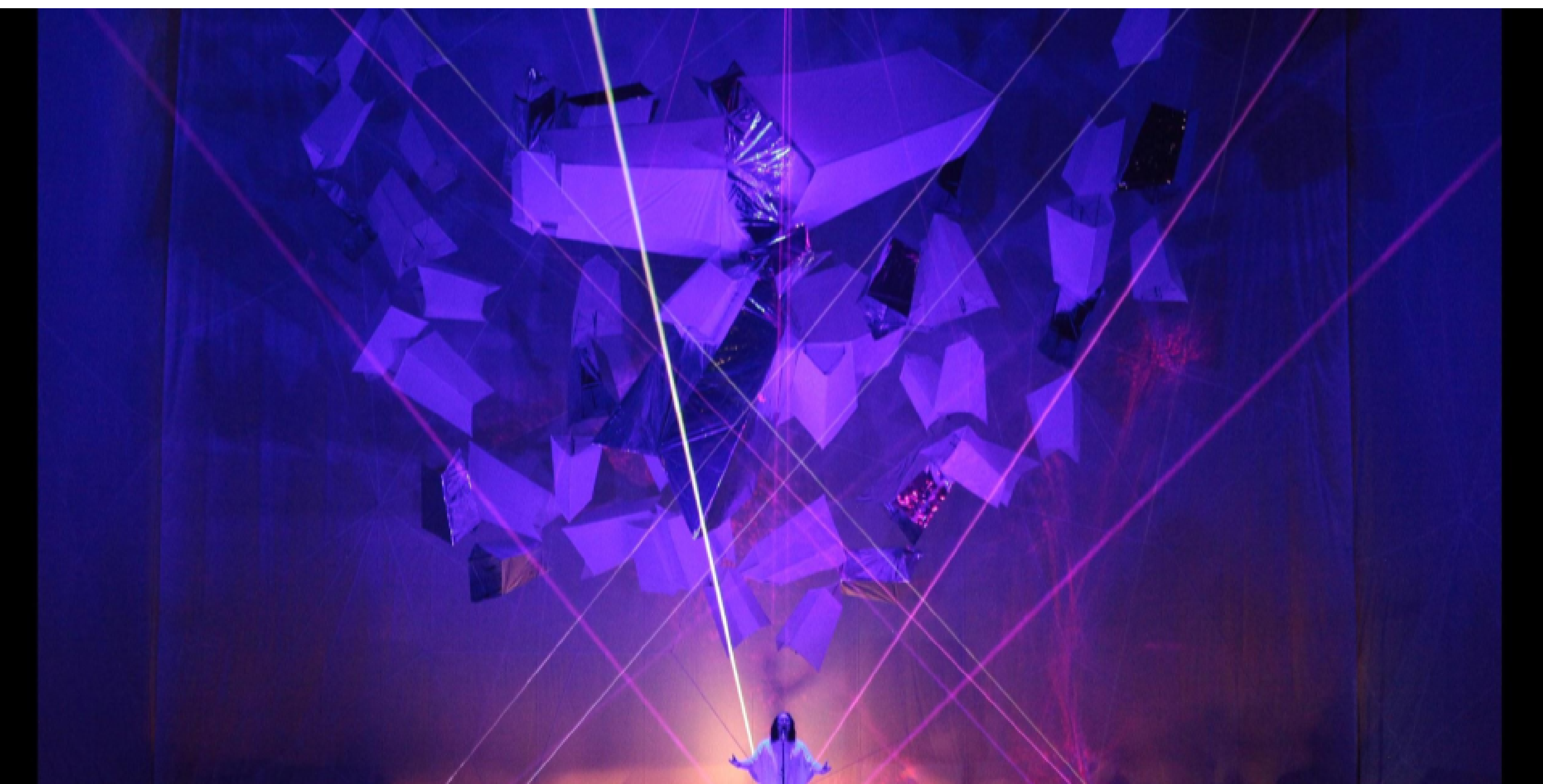


Aerodynamics

- I love planes and bird wings
- empathy with wind
- respecting the elements
- thinking about fluid dynamics
- applying the same principals to people interaction, emotions
- working closely with people.

Teachers

- A&J Swanlights Show - 2012 NY - commissioned by MOMA
- Anohni “Mother > Mothers mother > mothers mothers mother”
 - Chanel your empathy, put aside your ego
 - Think about bringing people with you
- Orchestra direction - string section - play so quietly you can hear your neighbour
 - when we are flying, we are not trying to dominate the person next to us, we are trying to work with them, that is team flying.
- The directors Ive been fortunate to work with
 - like Kim Gavin who directed the closing ceremonies of the olympics
 - Kim doesn't expect credits
- they are at the top of their game because they have made most mistakes
 - the difference is they learn from it and keep going.
 - you will fail, but it's like walking, keep stepping forward



- Skunk works and Kelly Johnson
 - To do something spectacular required unconventional methods
 - “it’s amazing what you can accomplish when no one gets credit for it”
 - think about kite performance, strip away that ego
- Mum
 - “let the paint run”
 - - ie don't hold the butterfly too tight
- Robert Loera
 - - “Never get cocky”





Myself

- being solitary because I hadn't found 'my tribe' I didn't fit in, I didn't understand the world.
 - retreated to art room at school / friends Gayle & Rachel
- Lego - system of infinite possibilities
- + Art foundation course
- = there is another way / experimenting / being resourceful
- Struggles
 - being born just after Vietnam,
 - going through my formative years in the 80's with the Aids crisis,
 - showed me how society treats people, (like me) and how alien I felt
- being picked on at school
 - for being 'slow' or 'special'
 - (undiagnosed for dyslexia)
- Having to close my business in 2010
 - Depression followed
 - my choice to relive 2nd life
- I reconnected with the psychology of looking up (kites)
- The kite family were the counterbalance / my support



Today

- I am Work in progress
- I carry with me all these lessons
- What do we have in common?
 - Experiences
 - Teachers
 - Struggles
- like kites I'm tethered to people and experiences
- Empathize and recognize
 - clear communication and creativity is what helps us work and fly together, not the technical skills. Acknowledge it on the field