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Opening Performance & Dialogue: Chant

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Chant is an astonishing piece, combining a potent engagement with Ritual as Theatre /Theatre as Ritual, and is a work through which Mahlangu explores his multi-dimensional and cross-generational relations as a source of performance energy. It thus has some elements that draw on a psychological and resolutely archaic mode of staging. Yet, the work also explores a form of hyper-modernity, with a vacuum-cleaner as a signifier for his grandmother, who raised him.

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OPENING PERFORMANCE AND DIALOGUE

CHANT

NHLANHLA MAHLANGU WITH JANE TAYLOR

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I had planned to engage Mahlangu in a depth of discussion about the making of the work, and its relation to the core themes around practice as research, and decolonial practices, but it was evident that he was drained by the performance. In the end, it seemed appropriate to engage in a brief conversation about his own theatrical thinking, questions that stayed, in a way, inside the ethos of the piece rather than engaging in a meta-discursive discussion that might articulate the thought that is so palpable in the performance itself.























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