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Research Project by William Forsythe & Forum Neues Musiktheater der Staatsoper Stuttgart

Inspired by the live electronic voice manipulation techniques in Andreas Breitscheid's piece *Im Spiegel wohnen*, premiered at the Forum Neues Musiktheater in 2003, William Forsythe asked whether it would be possible to employ the same technologies to manipulate and alter the voice material and movements of his dancers.

The discussions of the nature of the task developed into a joint research project between the newly founded Forsythe Company and the Forum Neues Musiktheater. The very first production of the new Forsythe Company, *Three Atmospheric Studies*, in the Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt, included, in its third section, the first use of the technologies that had been developed especially for Forsythe. That was followed by the performance installation *You Made Me a Monster*, premiered in 2005 at the Venice Biennale, in which the technologies employed were further refined and could be played like instruments, so to speak, by the dancers, who had had received intense training in the interaction. As a result, the entire sound of *You Made Me a Monster* is shaped entirely by the voice actions of the dancers, transformed live. There are no preproduced recordings at all.

In June 2005 William Forsythe was the guest of the Forum Neues Musiktheater as part of a Forum Atelier. He talked at length about the first experiences of the joint research project and presented examples of its use from the two productions thus far.

Continuing this research work, which for now is scheduled to last until summer 2006, there was a workshop with dancers and technicians of the Forsythe Company and members of the Forum Neues Musiktheater at the Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt, from November 18 to 20, 2005. In preparation for the production *Clouds after Cranach*, they have been expanding on the experience already gained, and the Forum Neues Musiktheater has presented and tested new forms of manipulation.

In January 2006 the Forum will present the performance installation *You Made Me a Monster* with five performances at the Forum that will reveal for the first time the results of this research project in their artistic application.

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