**UNFIXED Dialogues: Cinzia Schincariol (CS) and Sarah Houbolt (SH)**

Cinzia Schincariol (CS): Thank you Sarah.

Sarah Houbolt (SH): You’re welcome.

CS: Lovely meeting you. How are you feeling this morning?

SH: Yeah, I’m great. Adelaide is amazing.

CS: You’re here for the [0:00:09] Unfixed, is that right?

SH: Yeah.

CS: How is that going?

SH: Unfixed is great. I’m really enjoying it. It’s a chance to meet and be with other international artists and talk about art and disability [0:00:19]. So it’s really good.

CS: I really could use to understand your point of view on who is the actual [0:00:27] in our society.

SH: Disability is an interesting word for me. I’ve always grown up around really diverse people and I was born with partial sight. Actually I was born totally blind and then I got partial sight; I had an operation. So I was born into this lifetime with a way of operating in this world so for me I know who I am and I know what I need but I don’t really see that as a disability or something that is a disability. I kind of think that society is disabling so I am more than my impairment and I operate in this world in a unique kind of way. I’m able to travel around the world on my own, I’m able to do circus and aerials and all that with the sight that I have. So that’s not really a disability. It’s actually when there’s barriers in society and that’s the disability. This whole idea of sightseeing for me is not that entertaining so I’m not looking for the shape of a building, I’m looking for the connections with people locally. So I guess that makes me a tourist with integrity, maybe. I’m looking for local connection and the feel of a place and the conversations I have with people.

[audio moves to hula hoops]

SH: Can you hoop?

CS: No, definitely not. I need to change my posture. I’m all set up. [0:01:56] So teach me how I can do the hoop.

SH: Okay, right. So hold it behind your back with your hands tight and what you’re going to be doing is turning little circles with your stomach. So you’re going to be like front, side, back, side; front, side, back, side. Little tiny little circles. And then you’re going to give it a bit of momentum. You’ve got to fling it.

[audio reverts to interview]

CS: Is there anything that people never dare to ask you?

SH: People don’t dare to ask me about love and relationships, actually, if I’m really honest about it. I don’t’ have a lot of conversations in that realm. I do have a lot of conversation about can you see or have you had cancer. Like all those really with impairment type questions, which I don’t answer because I don’t think they’re integral to who I am. But as I was saying before about relationship and connection, the heart stuff, they’re more afraid of asking that. Every person in this world is amazing. Every person in this world loves. We are human so why should some people be excluded from that conversation?

CS: Your interest and connection in relationships, does that drive at all your way of making [0:03:12] as well?

SH: Yeah I think so. I wanted to – I always think about the audience when I create. I like to create movements that is integral to myself but also movement that tells a story or is character driven. So it could actually be quite aesthetically unique or I could be playing a particular aesthetic but there’s always something behind that. In that sense there’s a care and respect and I want to tell a story so that comes from a loving place. That’s like “hey, let’s share some information”. For example, the performance I’m doing at the moment is about a historical freak show character. I want to share that story because it’s amazing and I also wanted to treat the fact that she had inequalities at that time, back in the 1930s and there were differences then that have residues for today but it’s important that we know and it’s [0:04:06].

 My creative process is very linking. I like to think about things for a long time and then I like to do my in-depth research and talk to people about the concepts and ideas. My creative process is quite quick though. So I take a lengthy time to research and put things together in my head and then when I get on the floor I create quite quickly. So I like working with other people. I enjoy collaboration and I like just rehearsing the physicality over and over so I’ve got a nice product for the audience. And then I really like improving it. Slightly a perfectionist. [laugh]

[audio moves to hula hoops]

SH: That’s it. Good job.

[audio reverts to interview]

SH: I experience more family. I grew up with my brother and my sister in Australia. So my parents are Dutch and my father and extended family live over in Europe. So I do have connections with them and I do feel like they are my family, yet there is distance. So in some ways it really was my Mum and my sister and me growing up, which is three very, very strong women in one household. [laugh] I love them. They’re great. They made me who I am. Actually my great grandfather was a magician and he played with birds, he could do these amazing tricks to make birds appear. And I actually think that’s part of my heritage and I’m doing birdgirl character in my latest performance.

 My mother told me a stories of her experiences with her grandfather, going to magic shows when he was performing. But for me I was actually a swimmer and so I was a Paralympian in Sydney 2000 and then I joined the circus. So I didn’t actually grow up saying “I want to run away to the circus”. The circus actually found me in this lifetime, so I was like, “oh I guess I should do that then”. [laugh]

[audio moves to hula hoops]

SH: And then ta-da! [laugh]

CS: Thank you so much Sarah, it was so wonderful.

SH: You’re welcome. You did well.

CS: I enjoyed it, thank you. I’ll work on it, I promise.

SH: Yeah, you better.

[audio reverts to interview]

SH: I think it’s a common theme amongst people with disability, is let’s talk about this idea of what is beautiful and what is grotesque. Because it’s an important one. It’s actually quite an important theme. So I do treat it in my show and essentially I think beauty is absolute aware and experience. So people I’m attracted to and the people that I connect with are those with really interesting experiences in their life. That to me is beauty.

[ENDS]