

PUBLIC ACTS:

Conductor | 8 Movements

14th July 2019

Keith Harrison

Keith Harrison was invited by a working partnership of The Harris Museum and Art Gallery and 'In Certain Places', to create an artwork that would form part of a multi-faceted art and heritage project to mark the 50th anniversary of the Preston Bus Station in 2019. Harrison developed **Conductor | 8 Movements**, a live choreographed interruption of 60 minutes at Preston Bus Station that celebrated the architecture of a place designed for the movement and boarding of double-decker buses. This interruption in the life of the station involved 32 buses driven by skilled drivers performing slow, sequenced movements from the bus bays, mirrored simultaneously by the actions of volunteers in the passenger concourse, each of whom had a sheet of instructions on a clip board, carried as part of the performance. The piece was accompanied by a soundtrack by Preston Field Audio, created from recordings of the station and electronic loops composed in response to artist Keith Harrison's schematic 'score' drawings that used an electrical symbol coding system to denote movements of the buses. This musical score was piped through the tannoy announcement system. At the end of the event all 32 buses, displaying 'Out Of Service' lined up and left together with lights flashing and horns sounding – as the last buses to leave at night did through the 1970s and 80s.

A programme, flyer and A4 and A1 posters were designed for Conductor 8 by Carl Slater and distributed on all stagecoach buses and stations.

Volunteer Instructions devised by Ben Rutherford

Conductor | 8 Movements was recorded by filmmaker Jared Schiller, using CCTV Cameras, and was shown at the exhibition **Beautiful and Brutal: 50 years in the life of Preston Bus Station** at the Harris Museum and Art gallery from 21st September – 24th November 2019.

'In Certain Places' is an interdisciplinary public arts and research organisation based at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston.

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