

An invitation from choreographer Matthias Sperling:

Call for questions to help shape the inaugural research programme
of the 'Institute of Neurochoreography'



In my science-fiction performance-lecture *Now That We Know*, first performed in 2016, I mention a fictional institution called the **Institute of Neurochoreography** - a place where artists and scientists work together on investigating the continuities of our bodyminds. In the future that *Now That We Know* describes, this Institute has already played an important role in leading to breakthroughs in the understanding of the relationship between body and mind.

To accompany further performances of *Now That We Know* at Sadler's Wells Lilian Baylis Studio this autumn, I am convening a symposium on **Friday 2nd November** which playfully purports to 'launch' the Institute of Neurochoreography, inviting guest speakers and attendees to join me in presuming that this symposium is in fact the Institute's 'First Open Congress' - a gathering for anyone interested in contributing to and shaping its activities.

In addition to contributions from attendees on the day, I am now inviting advance contributions in the form of a question that you feel should inform the inaugural research programme of the Institute of Neurochoreography. Questions will be gathered, displayed and discussed as part of the symposium, and contributions are equally welcomed from those who are or are not able to attend the symposium themselves. Questions should be brief (one sentence) and can focus on any aspect of the what, how or why of the Institute's hypothetical activities. This might include questions directed towards:

- any particularly promising avenues for making further discoveries about the relationship between body and mind
- principles of how artists, scientific researchers and researchers in the humanities can best work together to open up significant potentials
- and critical, political or ethical reflections on what the Institute must be self-aware of, if it is to make a positive contribution to society and avoid any perceived dangers

Like *Now That We Know*, the Institute of Neurochoreography is a thought experiment that is offered with both seriousness and playfulness, and questions are welcomed to engage with that in any way.

Please send your question in writing to info@matthias-sperling.com by 1pm, Monday 15th October.