

## **Phil and Marco 28 March / 8 April**

### **Marco:**

The theatres in France are occupied but I wonder if it wouldn't be better to just close them....I remember Pialat saying in 1987: "And if you don't like me, I can tell you that I don't like you either." I am not gonna crawl at the floor hoping that some programmateur allows me to zoom a show I have spent 2 years of my life to make. What do you think?

**Phil:**

Dear Marco,

I don't know much about the situation in France and I don't know who Pialat is (I will look him up online). I like performing in France and Francophon audiences seem to really like my work, but I feel my accent can sometimes destroy the good work - I guess it depends on what I'm trying to say or how I'm trying to say it. I'm also not interested in performing on Zoom, but I can't judge those who choose to do it.

I think just as we are in a situation where it feels our professional world doesn't exist anymore, the programmers and funders etc must be really struggling as their positions of authority suddenly don't mean very much either. I guess that's why we're getting so many messages about how to „cope creatively “with the situation.

I hope we don't go back to „normal “, that we can go back to something better. I love touring but I once flew to Tokyo for 4 days and I guess it won't be so hard not to do those kind of things again. I also won't be tolerating bad manners, arrogance, and unanswered emails. I don't want to work with, for and through such people in the future. Here's some dialogue from the show I just cancelled called REVENGE;

*So what's this town like?*

this town? self-obsessed, unfriendly, bitter, unforgiving..

*forgiveness is overrated*

I don't think so. I think forgiveness is useful.

Things just wouldn't work otherwise.

I think most of us do it all the time, small things, you know...

People who don't answer their emails.

People who know you one day and then apparently they don't know you the next.

People who believe their own publicity.

Mean people with a little bit of power who act like dicks.

People who quote philosophers or the Bible at you like its evidence.

People who talk all night about themselves and never ask any questions.

Snobs

Posers

People who lie and manipulate....

Thieves, bullshitters, egomaniacs, bastards...

Forgiveness means you allow them the right to change, to become different or better....

*Sure, if you say so...*

I did it when you came in.

You didn't look at me, you didn't smile, you didn't leave a tip.

*Someone once painted SHIT FACE and LOSER down the sides of my car in big white letters*

Nice...

*I never found out who did it, but there were a few candidates.*

*I decided to leave the carlike that, to never clean it off, to drive it around proudly and to park where I wanted.*

*It looked great at weddings and funerals. I drove that car to death.*

Best to you, the sun is shining here, hope it is where you are.

Phil

**Marco:**

Dear Phil,

you will find Pialat easily, it's a French film director....

I love the excerpt of your piece. It shows so clearly the struggle between ethical values we try to keep up with, and the temptation of just give a fuck about anything and anyone. What is the nature of man? I think about the Indian philosopher Krishnamurti. He says that non-violence movements are stupid, as it doesn't reflect human nature. And, as non-violence movements oppose their own ideology to the other ideologies (international politics, military-industrial complex, Neo-liberalism, et cetera), it creates a new conflict, instead of resolving it.

In my head I travel daily between wanting to build bombs, disappear for ever, play the game of Neo-liberalism, retire in Italy, watching even more movies than I already do, make a show about my despair or just find stillness in order to live happier.....

I have downloaded all the Negativland records unto my iTunes. A band I cherish a lot since I was 17. You know them?

Warm greetings, Marco

**Phil:**

Dear Marco,

yes I found him thanks. No I don't know Negativland either, something else to research. I've been doing a song-writing project, asking people to send me the title and first line of a song and then I write it.

<https://www.philhayes.ch/en/assignments/> I've just been in the studio recording the next batch of songs. i had some stickers made the other day that say *Its like Punk Never Happened...* I don't mean in a music way, more in a spontaneous, having-the-right-to-try-simple-ideas-without-things-costing-a-lot-of-money kind of way. I think I'm going to try and work small or more spontaneously, maybe there is a way to work outside of the system, I suppose it depends if you want to get paid!

best to you.

Px

P.S. I'm talking to Lise this morning, you don't mind if I show her what we've been writing?

**Marco:**

Studio recording.....sounds great. It's a bit a confinement too, but a chosen one. I am not sure that my "6 films a day" confinement is a chosen one, but I definitely lost the courage to "go for a walk in the woods" every day.....

I very much understand your thoughts about doing smaller, more spontaneous works, and that this is all connected to money, to being in a system or outside.....

As for myself, I am incapable to think in such a way. I get easily obsessed but my ideas. Whether it's doing a solo, taking a picture, or putting 12 people on stage.....sometimes I get the feeling, as Carl Jung would probably interpret it, that it's not really me deciding. I get the feeling that inside of me there are forces which act, which direct me, push me into directions. My intellect then intervenes and creates reasons (but mostly excuses) for what I am suddenly doing or feeling. I am falling slowly into a depression but nevertheless I haven't been working on so many projects as I am doing it currently, for years. So, slightly hypochondriac as I am, I wonder if I am trying to speed up because my "inner forces" know already that I won't live up to 80.....

Yesterday I read the book in which Jerome Bel discusses dance with Boris Charmatz. 2 famous choreographers. I felt so.....sad for dance, and I felt lightyears away.....I just want to make my shows with nice people, having a laughter, being surprised, more or less like my parents did their job being restaurant-owners LOL

Send you lots of love, here is what I am listening right now while I am writing to you

<https://nationalcynical.bandcamp.com/album/they-saved-zappas-moustache>

**Phil:**

Dear Marco,

Thanks for your thoughts and feelings.

*"I just want to make my shows with nice people, having a laughter, being surprised, more or less like my parents did their job being restaurant-owners „ Yes exactly WHO you work with and HOW you work with them is the most important thing I think.*

I get ideas or feelings that I can't explain or justify and I want to just do them quickly - to find out what they are, like in the moment. I don't want to write a dossier and wait two years for someone's permission to do it. I'm not a very intellectual artist. I mean I take my work seriously, but I'm not going to show you a bunch of books to justify it. Some musicians say that writing songs is just about being receptive to catching them when they come along, like they are floating in the air and you just have to realise they are there and then they are yours.

Everything that happens on stage in my work has had to justify itself through working, I try to avoid clever external ideas. I have had enough of geniuses and gurus and chef d'oeuvre.

I've been recently looking at old kind of DIY films like *Guerillere Talks* (Vivienne Dick - 1978) <https://youtu.be/ucN57uEOsQg> basically bad acting with the microphones visible etc. I'm going to go out with my old video camera and film some friends and see if it becomes something. Do you know *Slacker*? its very dated now (1990s) but Richard Linklaker made it with no money with basically friends in his neighbourhood, theres no story, just one character meets another like a chain reaction. The whole movie is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jB4xIYKAVCQ> but you might find it hard to watch through today's eyes.

I'm listening to this right now <https://youtu.be/s1M9YTv3v7I>

best to you

Px

**Marco:**

Sorry for this 3-day break, but I just couldn't get my head around writing. I feel I am drowning more and more and the perspective of art won't help much....

I am thankful for this exchange. I discover so many movies, music and artists I've never heard of before. Thanks to you.

As you, I am trying to be in the here and the now, which in my case means my couch, my food, my views of the sun which shines outside for the others. I don't like Gurus either, except myself, as I am the only Guru on Earth without a sect.

I wonder how much time it will take me to recover, to restore my health, to get back in shape...

Strangely, despite my physical depression my brain seems to work better than usual. I read a lot, I listen to a lot of music. The image of Stephen Hawking comes into my mind, the cosmologist. I wonder how he did feel about life.....

Well, if ever I should drown myself in my red wine, or suffocate from the numerous packets of chips I am eating, just know how nice it was to talk to you. I bequeath all my choreographies to whoever wants them. But nobody besides my daughter will ever know how to prepare a proper Tiramisu.

Carl Gustav Jung

Jiddu Krishnamurti

Zappa

Robert Wyatt

Orson Welles

Stanley Kubrick

George Balanchine

They are all dead.....and I feel pretty sick myself

Take care, Marco

**Phil:**

Hi Marco,

I picture you floating on your couch, like a life-raft afloat on a sea of red wine and chips drifting towards the rocks.

I have folded all the shirts I am now too fat to wear but hope one day (it will never happen) to wear again. They are folded in neat piles on a shelf at the top of my wardrobe, divided into colours (lots of pinks and orange) and patterns (checks and a cool one with white spots like Bob Dylan in 1966)

Now I wear clothes for older men who hide their belts. I look like a sleazy architect who thinks he is Bertold Brecht.

I like the idea of a Guru without a sect. Maybe that's what we all are. Maybe that's what should happen to all Gurus, that they lose their followers.

Do you have Netflix? *Wild Wild Country* and *The Mormon Murders* are both great.

I'm glad to hear your brain is working well. As you know I worked on a few shows with Simone, she helped me to realise that i had a body, that I wasn't just a head.

Then she showed me that they are in fact connected and that they can control, interest or ignore each other too.

I'm glad you are bequeathing your choreographies, it seems like a good gesture.

Here are a few more dead people I would like to add to your list;

Dusty Springfield

Nina Simone

John Cassavetes

Gena Rowlands

Joe Strummer

Poly Styrene

Shirley Jackson

Aretha Franklin

They didn't have sects, but I would have gladly joined.

You know about the gold disc on the Voyager space probe? It was a golden LP containing sounds of planet earth, birds, nature, hello in 50 languages, a message from Jimmy Carter and different music, African singing with percussion, different classical music, opera, chuck berry, folk music. They hoped that creatures on another planet would find the golden record and hear the sounds of planet earth and know that we have a beautiful planet and come in peace.

Years later NASA received distant messages from another planet. It took years to decode the messages into language but they did it. And the message?

„Send more Chuck Berry“

I have enjoyed this conversation too. if you want to share it with Lise and Pauline, fell free. If you want to continue I'm fine with that as well. Or both.

best to you. you will rise like a phoenix.

<https://youtu.be/gmHipDYMvN0>

Phil x

P.S. Robert Wyatt is not dead yet.

**Marco:**

I thought that I had send you my last message, but when you wrote about the *Golden Record*, the temptation to react became too strong.

I did a show in 2011 on this Golden Record theme. It was a show with 9 dancers dressed like astronauts, coming from different planets, trying to get in contact with each other.

I performed the show in Vienna, Impulstanz. By chance, there was an exposition in a Vienna museum about space travelling at that time. So, the Festival director invited me to speak about my show at the vernissage of the exposition. At one moment, speaking about the golden record, I said: "isn't it funny, that, in case that some Aliens would be able to get their fingers on the Voyager probe, then find the record-player and understand the instructions (written in English), would hear, as the first human voice, the voice of Kurt Waldheim, an ex-SS? Kurt Waldheim was the Secretary of the UN at that time but some years later someone blew the whistle that Waldheim had been in the SS, so Waldheim had to retire from politics. Some people at the vernissage were laughing, but let's not forget that all this was happening in Vienna.....Austria.....so suddenly someone stood up and started shouting at me that Waldheim had never been in the SS. That it was his horse that had been used by an SS Sergeant. The tension in the room was high. Nothing violent happened but my Tech Director protected me while leaving the museum, some guys were following me.

Each time I go to Vienna something happens with some Nazi.....

I add the names to my list while floating.....

Oh shit, Wyatt is not dead, you're right . Autant pour moi

I send everything to Pauline. Feel free to add if you want. I suppose their deadline is tomorrow or a bit later.

Hope to see you soon, Marco

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75yX2kfz9XQ>