

Paper/Panel/Performance Proposal:

## **The eye of the maker: feeling into counter-memory**

Proposal by

Zsuzsi Soboslay

Canberra, ACT

Freelance performer, theatre director, researcher, exhibition curator

PhD Candidate, Monash University

How does one represent the gap between memory and recall, between sensed experience and expression? What structures and tools allow an audience to recognise and sense the difficult, invisible, or even 'unspeakable' of human experience which sit outside of received paradigms?

I apply these questions to two works in progress. One is a short film excerpt taken from official footage of the Water Polo semi-final between Russia and Hungary [the 'Blood in the Water' match] at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics--a remarkable document where underwater shots reveal what the official commentary denies. The other is a filmed excerpt of a theatre event, *Anthems and Angels*, on the theme of immigration and exile. The performance subject is the émigré's experience of loss, and utilizes dance, music, animation, and archival sound and visuals from around the WWII period. It includes improvising musicians in its cast.

I would also like to offer a short performance excerpt, of between 5-20 minutes, at some time during the conference.

### PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION:

#### ***Anthems and Angels:***

Two continents: Europe, Australia. 1945-1960.

What experiences and memories has the immigrant had to leave behind?

An exploration through performance of the beauties and terrors harboured in the landscape of the immigrant's mind.

*“Has made me feel what many acquaintances have told me, but what I have not understood before.” [Kat Nockels, Board Member, Canberra Dance Theatre]*

*“exactly my experience in leaving Lebanon in the 1980s.” [spectator of A&A showing, Feb 2012]*

*“Incredibly moving.” [spectators of A&A showing, Feb 2012]*

*“A reference point for my future thinking about migration memories.” [Mary Hutchison, historian and researcher]*

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS [ideal, but not absolute]:

sound system; projector; portable set provided; does not require a ‘stage’ setting. Please see drop-box video excerpt.

NUMBER OF PERFORMERS: between 2 and 3 performers.

Please see short excerpt provided via drop box invitation to Catherine Summerhayes.