

**Recreating the Conditions for *Long Film For Ambient Light* (Anthony McCall)**

12 noon Friday 16 March - 12 noon Saturday 17 March, 2007.

Teaching and Learning Cinema (Lucas Ihlein and Louise Curham)

<http://teachingandlearningcinema.org>

Interview 06: Friday 16 March, 2007, 2200h

**Lizzie Muller, Vanessa Berry, Tim Wright, Lucas Ihlein**

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Lizzie ...can you describe for me what you first noticed when you came into the space?

Vanessa It felt like I was in a big shipping container or something, it seemed too big – the room just seemed too big.

Lizzie So you noticed the size?

Vanessa Yeah.

Lizzie What about you?

Tim I don't know let me – the light.

Lizzie The light bulb?

Tim Yep.

Lizzie As soon as you came in the door?

Tim Yeah.

Vanessa I didn't notice the bulb straight – well I did but I didn't really register it straight away, like I saw it obviously but...

Lizzie Ah, sleepest interview ever, I love it we'll all just nod off...

Vanessa The camera, the wall of cameras I noticed.

Lizzie The wall of cameras? Oh ok over here, yeah right. So you noticed the size of the place, the wall of cameras – anything else?

Vanessa That was pretty much it for my first impressions.

Lizzie And can you tell me more about what those impressions were? So they were the things you noticed, and what did you actually feel?

Vanessa I guess I was just looking for what was going to be in here cause I had no idea before I came in what would be in here, and there seemed like there was less in here than what I expected. But really I expected nothing so I guess in that moment before, before I came in where I didn't really, hadn't really thought about what would

be in here and then I pushed open the door and then suddenly I expected all this stuff to be going on and there wasn't very much. Did you feel the same Tim?

Tim Mm.

Lizzie You expected lots to be going on and there was nothing?

Vanessa Well maybe not lots but I expected – yeah I wasn't sure. It was very simple in here, yeah and I got a bit distracted by the cameras over there, wondering what they were doing there.

Lizzie Distracted?

Vanessa Yeah, well they didn't seem like – well yeah I guess they could have been part of it but they didn't seem like it, they were waiting to, like vultures or something waiting to feed. Oh dear.

Lizzie So you first noticed the bulb?

Tim Mm.

Lizzie And what were your impressions? Any impressions, any thoughts?

Tim Very similar to what Vanessa said, just - yeah. Looking for something to catch on to.

Lizzie I'm surprised you're not both saying, 'I noticed the cushions and I thought, "wouldn't it be nice to have a nap?"'.

Vanessa Well I'm coming to that.

Lizzie Oh ok – so, sorry Tim.

Tim Oh, no I'd finished.

Lizzie And then after – so Tim, after the light bulb and that kind of sense of expectation what else, how did the rest of the experience unfold for you?

Tim Sorry, I'm a bit out of it – ah, how did the rest of the experience unfold?

Lizzie What happened?

Tim I probably just started talking, and your friends came in and we just started chatting and – I don't know, getting used to being in here. I don't think I'm really...

Lucas You're also a bit sick, right?

Tim Yeah.

Lizzie            Can you tell me about that conversation? Anything in particular about the relationship to (the people in?) the space?

Vanessa        Well we were talking about beer towers, they had, they'd bought some...

Tim              Yeah they were quite drunk.

Vanessa        Yeah they'd drunk this beer tower and we were talking about that, but I was very conscious of the fact that...

Tim              Six beer towers.

Vanessa        ...because this room's so big, this conversation seemed – I kind of noticed the way their voices were, would kind of hover at our head level and although they echo, I can hear my voice echoing now, I was conscious of just all the space pressing down, like all the air in the room sort of pressing down on us and keeping our voices sort of on that level and so I guess that's the difference between having that conversation in here and that conversation outside or in some other, some more – well, less lofty space.

Lizzie         Ok, so a kind of spatial sense of the conversation.

Vanessa        Yeah.

Lizzie         Anything about what you could actually talk about? Like the content of the conversations you had?

Vanessa        Well the conversation about the beer tower seemed immediately incredibly silly but that could have well been the case no matter where I was conducting that conversation. It just seemed a bit trivial, and that we should be talking about something else, there should more important things to talk about when you're in a big room with a light bulb in the middle.

Lizzie         What about you Tim?

Tim              Sorry, I'm going blank.

Lizzie         That's alright. You can say nothing at all if you like.

Tim              Yeah I can't, I can't think of anything.

Vanessa        He spent all day so sick.

Lizzie         And moving on from that kind of conversation, then what happened after that?

Vanessa        Then I started to take particular interest in the light bulb itself and the glass of the light bulb, which depending on how you look at it started to look very,

kind of fragile and a bit kind of dusty or something even though I don't think it was but it seemed to be very thin so I noticed that, that kind of texture of the light bulb and then was looking at the filament inside and trying to – you know how you can look at the shape that it makes, that kind of U shape, and trying to look at it and kind of follow it with my eye if you know what I mean? You know when you look at a filament and it's nice to think – I like to think about the electricity going through it and I remember learning in primary school or high school or whenever you learn about electricity how they work and how they're quite simple, they're just sort of resistant to it and that's why it glows, so I thought about that for a while.

Lizzie           And you two played a bit with the light bulb too didn't you?

Tim               Making shadow puppets.

Vanessa         Yeah see after – then we came and sat down for a while and I felt like we were camping or something and it started to feel like we were outside almost because there was so much space, and then yeah we got up and started to play with the shadows which I hadn't even noticed up until that point so yeah, so Tim and I were playing shadow puppets – I wished I had my shadow puppet book. Yeah and I was very pleased to note that my head was incredibly large, that pleased me greatly and my hair's in a pony tail so it looked, it looked pleasing to me. Yeah so that was nice because I'd already been in here for quite a while, say 15 minutes or so and then I realised the shadow thing...

Lizzie           And you thought, 'entertainment'?

Vanessa         Yeah, well yeah, and I thought, 'I didn't notice that straight away', yeah.

Lizzie           Can you describe anything about the way that you were feeling throughout this whole process?

Vanessa         It was quite fun in a kind of gentle way, you know like it wasn't a firework occasion or anything but it was a low level kind of pleasure of being in a big room but also kind of shyness as well because I always feel a bit, I'm not the kind of person who immediately starts to you know, do karate kicks and gymnastics and stuff I always feel quite tentative when I'm in a large space, cause I'm generally – I suppose I'm sort of, I'm always a bit physically reticent and so I'm made aware of the fact that I could do all these fabulous things, like just you know kick my legs around and make funny shapes with my body but I don't tend to.

Lizzie           You could be big in the space?

Vanessa         Yeah so I guess, so I think about that a bit. So yeah I maybe feel a potential.

Lizzie           Tim? Anything before you nod off?

Tim               I think I usually feel like that, like what you were saying but I didn't tonight either just because I don't really feel very energetic but I do usually feel that

thing like when you walk into a big space you just want to run around and go to every corner and that kind of thing. So you don't feel like that?

Vanessa I feel like if I was in here by myself I would but – yeah I don't know, I don't know, I wish I was really tall and I wish I could (just?) – it makes me - when I was in high school and we had to go to chapel every week and this sort of reminds me of chapel in a way because, where you'd just be sitting there and looking at the rafters for ages and counting the rafters; I imagine if I was trapped in here I'd do similar things.

Lizzie Yeah I have been trapped and I did count.

Tim In here?

Lizzie Yeah.

Vanessa It's something easy to do but it's kind of satisfying if you – yeah, if you don't have much to do.

Lizzie Anything else you want to share you guys? Do you want to ask anything?

Vanessa What if the light bulb blows? Have you got a spare one?

Lizzie See I said, 'do you want to ask anything?' but I don't know the answers to everything, it's just nice to know what questions people have.

Vanessa Well that's my question.

Lizzie I don't know, (I'd be?) desperate if that light bulb were to blow.

Tim Was it on during the day?

Lizzie Yeah but you couldn't notice it when it was light.

Vanessa Are those windows?

Lizzie Yeah.

Vanessa Oh right.

Lizzie (It was quite a?) different business when it was light.

Tim And what's the white...?

Vanessa Right.

Tim And did they, is that - is the top part windows as well or did they paper them over?

Lizzie            Yeah they papered them, but they (are?) windows. But the point was just to have win – like the point of the preparation of the room is to have windows that have natural light come through them but are opaque so you can't see visual detail.

Tim                Oh ok.

Lizzie            It was a quite kind of – there was a certain drama to the light changing.

Vanessa          Yeah I was just going to ask, what was it like when it suddenly dimmed enough for that to become bright?

Lizzie            Yeah it was a quite (inaudible) kind of very bizarrely dramatic but imperceptible shift.

Vanessa          Yeah cause it's one of my favourite times of day, that time when you suddenly realise that the light's gone and it's time to put the light on.

Lizzie            It really made you aware of that.

Lucas             That's interesting cause it's just like that article that Tim wrote, After the Tour of Beauty...

Tim                Oh yeah that's right.

Lucas             ...about how they were playing soccer outside and the light decreased and decreased and decreased but not fast enough so you really knew it and then all of a sudden you were like, 'what? It's dark!'

Tim                Yeah, yeah.

Lizzie            It's definitely (inaudible).

Tim                (Actively?) go in and go out again, go into (the house and go out?) (inaudible)...

***(end of recording)***