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Darren O'Donnell

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DARREN O'DONNELL

SOCIAL ACUPUNCTURE



A GUIDE TO SUICIDE, PERFORMANCE AND UTOPIA

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Darren O'Donnell : Social Acupuncture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Social Acupuncture:

Theatre doesn't have much relevance anymore. Or so acclaimed playwright Darren O'Donnell tells us. The dynamics of unplanned social interaction, he says, are far more compelling than any play he could produce. So his latest show, *A Suicide-Site Guide to the City*, isn't really a show; it's an interactive chitchat about memory,

depression, and 9/11, a dazzling whirl of talking streetcars, pizza and schizophrenia. And it's hilarious. Orsquo;Donnell's artistic practice has evolved into something as close to hanging out as you can come and still charge admission. With his theatre company, Mammalian Diving Reflex, Orsquo;Donnell has generated a series of ongoing events that induce interactions between strangers in public; the Talking Creature, QA, Home Tours, the Toronto Strategy Meetings and Diplomatic Immunities bring people together in odd configurations, ask revealing questions and prove the generosity, abundance and power of the social sphere. Social Acupuncture includes the full text of A Suicide-Site Guide to the City and an extensive essay on the waning significance of theatre and the notion of civic engagement and social interaction as an aesthetic.

About the Author Darren O'Donnell is a writer, award-winning director, actor, Dora-winning set designer and the artistic director of Mammalian Diving Reflex. His theatre credits include A Suicide-Site Guide to the City, White Mice, [boxhead], Who Shot Jacques Lacan?, Over and Mercy! He organizes the Talking Creature, an ongoing social experiment on the art of conversing with strangers, and Diplomatic Immunities, in which he explores the aesthetic of civic engagement.