

SITE REPORT [part II: performer/spectator] Time Square



Jingyu Zhan
09.12.2016

INTRODUCTION

The street performer, Robert John Burck, known as “naked cowboy”, has been a classic figure in time square for decades. He wear only a hat, cowboy boots and briefs. In addition, he plays a guitar and sings songs he writes. His theme song is “I am the naked cowboy.”

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to site visit, I wanted to see how the “naked cow boy” performs and how he interacts with the spectators.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



The “naked cowboy” is performing in the street of Time Square. The picture also indicates the size of performance space and the size of spectator space.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Description of the performance object, person, or technology (costume, media, text, props, sets, etc.)

The “naked cow boy” is a street performer, and he is active in Time Square. He basically wears a hat, cowboy boots and briefs. He would stand on the street and sing songs while playing the guitar.

2. Choreography of performance

Do not contain choreography.

3. Description of performance limits (ground, walls, barricades, streets, buildings)

There is a limited blue ground area for the performance.

4. Description of audience (static, moving, direction of attention)

Audiences are excited and delightful. They keep taking pictures of him.

5. Description of audience (socio-economic, community identity)

Mostly tourists from all over the world.

6. Description of performer/spectator dynamics (engagement, morphology)

Performer is very engaged with audience. He is willing to take pictures with them and sign on a card for them.

7. Other Observations

There is another “naked cow boy” performs at a different date.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Size of performance space	Relatively small
Size of spectator space	-
Range of dynamic change	N/A
# of points of focus	One
Number of spectators (range)	Approximately 110,000
Time period of performance	Before lunch time
# of repetitions	-
Cost of performance (if any)	
Other data	Active years: 1998 - present

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. What prompts the naked cow boy to perform in the street of Time square?
2. How much money does he make annually?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Wikipedia.org
2. Question 2
 - a. Time.com
 - b. Fusion.net

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

After the visit of the naked cow boy, I found that street performers are usually associated with singing or playing music. And they are more dynamic and have more access to interact with spectators.