

Searching Shadows by Emily Orley

Dates: 1 July 2017

Time: 2pm

Location: Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford Playhouse

Emily Orley's solo-show "Searching Shadows" weaves a story about the early days of the X-ray, the precarious nature of memory, and the life of her Russian immigrant grandfather.

The one-hour performance, relying only on the light of a single desk lamp and an array of analogue machines, combines spoken word, old family photographs, X-ray images and evocative sounds to conjure a tale of the radiologist she barely knew. The London-based artist was prompted to make the piece after discovering a jumbled collection of his personal memoirs and letters at the back of a filing cabinet.

Arranged in 27 segments (as one might arrange the 27 bones of an exhumed hand), and inspired by the idea that John Berger explores in *This is Where We Meet*, that the dead are still with us, Orley pieces together this unusual set of histories in the style of a performance lecture.

"I wanted to see if, by exploring how x-rays were first made, I might x-ray someone who was no longer here, using only a handful of objects they had left behind" Orley said.

Emily Orley is an artist, researcher and lecturer whose work includes performance, installation and art-writing. She is interested in exploring ideas to do with memory and mis-memory, maintenance and enchantment, history, heritage and place, and how these all co-exist. She has been making and showing work, alone and in collaboration, in the UK and abroad for fifteen years. She has a PhD from Roehampton University, and trained at the Jacques Lecoq School in Paris.

For more information:

Website – www.emilyorley.com