

Interfacing

spirit worlds: Red Earth's

Javanese odyssey



Java is a state of mind, not a computer software. Avant-ecological performance group, Brighton's Red Earth meeting with the island's ancient subtle realms produced combustible results. After returning, a trilogy of collaborations with Javanese dancers emerged – showing how traditional forms can sit within the body of mixed-media performance.



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Fire and water. Air and earth. The opposite poles of the Galenic humours or elements. To the pre-modernists among us, each convey archetypal essences and qualities. For interested artists working with physical materials, it is an attractive option to include the four elements as part of the palette of their resources for exploration.

Red Earth, the Brighton based performance group, have begun by encompassing the elemental within their

name. Consequently, it's no surprise to find their work applying the realm of the humours, integrating it into other connected concerns such as ritual which can be related to alchemical transmutation.

In a lifetime extending so far over ten years, around Brighton and around the country, they have been developing and realising a variety of site-specific performance pieces. At the close of the 1998 Brighton Festival they put on the first stage of an intercultural