

Searching Shadows

by Emily Orley, 2016

Emily Orley's new 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 immigrant grandfather.

The one-hour performance combines spoken word, sound on cassette and vinyl, old family photographs and X-ray images, and is lit only by a small desk lamp and a 35mm slide projector. The London-based artist was prompted to make the piece after discovering a jumbled collection of her relative's personal memoirs and letters at the back of a filing cabinet. These described his journey from Russia to London where he became a radiologist in the early 1930s.

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 an unusual set of histories.

"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 and researcher who devises spoken-word theatre, combining poetry, image, sound and carefully choreographed gestures. She has been making and showing work, alone and in collaboration, in the UK and abroad for fifteen years. She trained at the Jacques Lecoq School in Paris and has a PhD from Roehampton University.

For more information:

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