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**'What The Money Meant': The Materiality of Dollars** (Paper, multimedia)

In this presentation, I will discuss my recent practice-based scenographic investigation and performance 'What The Money Meant', shown at SITE 1/SAFLE 1 Festival at Aberystwyth Arts Centre (Wales) and Chelsea Theatre (London). 'What The Money Meant' is a Brechtian musical for three people and a spectacle for more. Using images, diagrams and video documentation, I will explore the ways in which this piece's explicit use of financial transactions might shed light on the power of money as an object of action in performance. I will also consider the ways in which the imbrication of money-objects in performance might expose tensions that are fundamental to the current capitalist moment, in which affective labour's immateriality is constantly juxtaposed with the calcification of this labour into objects. I am particularly interested in dialogue around the use of tipping as a vehicle for audience participation (borrowing the model of participation often found in strip shows or street performance). Tipping is a means of communication between humans. However, in the moment that money changes hands, the money-object takes on a significance that is separate from the humans around it. How might this fetishistic process be used to a performance's advantage? I will close the presentation by considering how this specific discussion might shed light on potential ways in which other objects might be situated dramaturgically in order to produce specific affects.

**Dr. Alison Matthews** is a performance maker and researcher whose practice focuses on dramaturgies of exchange and triangulation within the performance encounter, as well as the ways in which these dramaturgical structures echo larger capital dynamics. She has performed across the UK and Ireland, and was recently invited to perform at the Universität der Künste (Berlin) for the launch of a new course on arts, economy and social media. She recently completed her practice-based PhD at Aberystwyth University.