

**SAUL GARCIA LOPEZ**  
PERFORMANCE ARTIST AND DIRECTOR  
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Saul Garcia is a performance artist who explores the political boundaries of gender and ethnicity within an intercultural and trans-cultural context. In his work, the borders between space, body representation and audience participation are constantly transgressed. By establishing a bridge between all these elements, a combination of forces of communication and control, of expansion and contraction, of freedom and imprisonment are created. Thus, the human-body and its representation collapse into an action-reaction pattern that responds to the particular cultural structure (real or imaginary) of the space and the viewer.

As part of his professional development, Saul Garcia trained as a Contemporary Dancer and graduated as Psychologist from the National University in Mexico City. Moreover, Saul Garcia graduated also as an Actor and Director from the Mexican Ensemble Theatre. He completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Directing at VCA,

Melbourne University, Australia and a Drama and Film Honors Degree at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Saul Garcia has worked professionally on TV, dance and theatre and has directed performances in Germany, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa and Australia. In the UK, Saul Garcia performed during the 2006 Refugee Week and Merchant City Festival in Glasgow and was leading dancer for Angela Preid's choreography *The Bed* that toured across the UK. He completed a research residency in post-human dance for The Dance House and the CCA Glasgow. He collaborated with the theatre company CREW in the making of the performance *'U'-ranging Standstill* during the 2007 New Territories Festival. During the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, he was a leading performer for *The Ballad* by Aye! Productions. This performance also toured across Scotland. As a director he led several workshops during the 2007 Refugee Week at the TRON Theatre and the 2007 Merchant City Festival, in Glasgow. During the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, he was assistant director for the dance-show *A Night at the Movies*. In Toronto, he is one of the founder members of the Life and Limb Performance Collective and has participated in several performance interventions across the city. In February 2011 Life and Limb and Saul Garcia participated in the Buddies in Bad Times' 32<sup>nd</sup> Rhubarb Festival. He was a guest performer with the performance group 2boys.tv for the show *Tightrope* during the 2011 Buddies in Bad Times' theatre program. In addition to being a performer he is a PhD candidate in Theatre Studies at York University and has presented academic papers at IFTR 2009, Psi16 and CATR 2010, and the FOOT Conference 2011 in Toronto University. As an artist and academic he explores the intersections of the theoretical framework of performance theory and the artistic performance. From this position, Saul Garcia tries to expose and reconcile the contradictions and challenges of being a creator and a theorist at the same time. He is a board member of the Toronto Free Gallery and most recently he has been invited to be an Associate Member of the renowned performance troupe "La Pocha Nostra". He has performed with them in Canada (2010) and the USA (2011) and pedagogically has collaborated with La Pocha Nostra during its 2011 summer school in San Francisco.