

Burble by Emma Smith Transcript

0:04 **Emma Smith**

So, my name is Emma Smith, I work as an artist and I have what's called a social practice, which means I work with people to make work. I often make site specific works as this piece is, which is to really think about where I'm working and the specifics of that site. So, in this case Station Road. This work is called *Burble*, which is a reference both to the burble or babble of water, but also speech; the water that originally surrounded Edgware and defined it as an area and the babble of voices, which has now replaced it as people have come to live here. And then placing the 'urb' or 'urban' into the middle of that as a word become 'burble'. When we talk to each other, as humans, we produce the most amazing music without realising that that's what we're doing. So, when you're greeted over the counter going into a cafe or a shop, or when you meet up with friends, we - as we talk to each other and say hello and greet one another, we undulate our voices, our voices go up and down, and they have different rhythms to them, and completely subconsciously. And without us knowing about it. Those rhythms make really quite amazing music, and that music we produce subconsciously in order to make relationships to make friends. And so, all the time, every day, up and down Station Road, there is this amazing music being made by people as they agreed to meet one another. And the idea of this work is to capture that music and sound and to be able to attend to it and listen to it.

1:32 **Emma Smith**

Hey, how are you? Hey, how are you? Hey, is that feeling range to you?

1:40 **Audio**

[*Singing*]

1:47 **Emma Smith**

So, what we did in creating this work was to meet with community groups, residents, businesses, shop owners, customers, and invite them to share with us the greetings that they make to one another. And then we've listened to both what the words and languages are - this work is written in seven languages, and to capture then what the specific undulations are in each person's musicality that they've used in sharing that greeting with one another. So, in the performance singers start from the locations where greetings have been gathered from along the street and make their way to Edgware Station where we come together to bring those voices into one space at the same time.

2:24 **Audio**

[Singing]

[Background sounds]

2:36 **Emma Smith**

The process of bringing those voices together is an improvised one. So, the singers have all learnt the greetings very specifically based on the music that was used by members of the public when they shared those greetings with us. But the way we bring them together as a performance is to then improvise those together in the same way we do when we meet each other in the street, to respond to one another. So, to hear how somebody else uses their voice, and to use our voice to respond back. So, what you're hearing is the very precise musicality of the greetings that people make up and down the street, but coming together in new ways to think about how we bring all those voices from Station Road in one moment, in one time, to listen to them. So, there's no imposition of a made-up score it's - it's this is what it's music that people are making themselves up and down Station Road.

3:27 **Audio**

[Singing]

3:36 **Emma Smith**

I'd like to thank everyone who's been involved there's been hundreds of people from community groups, to businesses, to customers, residents along the length of Station Road. Thank you so much.

3:46 **Audio**

[Singing]

3:53 **Audio**

[Singing voices gather]