

Archiving as Artistic Practice

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This presentation looks at the development of an online showcase repository for the ReTAGS' (Reimagining Tragedy from Africa and the Global South) practice-as-research artistic productions, *Antigone (not quite/quiet)* and *iKrele leChiza*, and the methodology behind documenting and digitally archiving their processes.

This methodology entailed merging the artistic knowledge produced on the rehearsal floor with the digital humanities practices of ensuring that the data produced is in accordance with the F.A.I.R (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles, while fundamentally being guided by Michel-Rolph Trouillot's (1995) rationale on history-making. The digital datasets that have been captured to date, are part of an ever-expanding, living archive, with the flexibility of the digital space to allow for the potential to decentre the notion of the archivist as a singular entity and distribute it amongst a community of digital citizens. The aim of producing and expanding on such a rich source of comprehensive datasets is the hope for broadening the extent to which critical engagement and interrogation, across any Humanities' sector, may further academic research. As well as setting precedence in the way in which artists can use performance practice-based research as a reputable means by which to produce and publish data.

This presentation reflects on my involvement as the digital archivist on the ReTAGS research and the choices made and implemented on the online showcase repository. Considering the strengths and challenges; exploring the possibilities and inviting discussion around archiving for artistic purposes as well as understanding the archive as its own means of artistic engagement.

Biographical note: Jayne Batzofin, is an independent theatre director best known for their strong directorial vision and advocacy in Theatre for Early Years and Theatre for Youth, specialising in inclusivity and accessibility. Since 2019, Batzofin has been working as a Digital Archivist and Data Steward for various projects at UCT.