



The Road to the Beach/The Edge - June 2004

The Road to the Beach was a major participatory performance event developed in partnership with The Works, Creative Partnerships Cornwall, and The Extreme Academy. Bringing together a team of visual artists, local Cornish dancers and the Motionhouse company, Kevin Finnan directed a participatory process in Cornish schools spanning nine months – from an ‘inspiration week’ for school children in October 2003, through nine residency workshop and devising weeks, to the culminating performance ‘The Edge’ on the tidal beach at Watergate Bay, Cornwall on June 25th 2004.

Created as a series of thematically linked performance chapters, the Edge drew its audience along the length of the beach. Drawing on themes of the sea - from a pirate fleet and Botticelli’s Venus, to giant windmills and sandcastles, from singing sirens on the rocks to the 100 strong ‘sea of boys’ - and culminating in Machine Dance, for 4 dancers and 4 JCB diggers, the Edge pushed back the boundaries of site based events. The Edge was performed by a cast of 700 – with school children dancing alongside professionals - to an audience of 2,500.

