

# P8

## Session 1 (Visual)

*I: We're going to talk about your experience today. I want to work with you to understand....[INTRODUCTION CONTINUES]....When you describe your experience try a little bit to explain details. If you don't remember, maybe you can try to put yourself in that moment to recollect....*

*So what did you experience? How was this experience? Can you describe the overall experience?*

**P8:** Overall, um...**it was a fun experience. I enjoyed it.** It was interesting looking in and in its sort of still state. Like when you first start. **It almost looks like a landscape** with the way its, um...the various lengths of the fiber. So it was very interesting sort of just looking at it at first with **the lights moving around and seeing the contours of this landscape.** And when I got it, one of the first **things I noticed to was that there's two kinds of plains. There's the landscape plain and the sort of reflection of the light [lamp light].** Like right now when you look at it this light is casting on another plain. And that was one of the first things I noticed when we turned the lights off um...was that there was a second plain on a sort of a cone shape. From I think the projector and so that was an interesting experience because that was at eye level and looking up and bringing my view to the sort of the points of light at the top as well. And then as my eyes got sort of a little bit accustomed to the dark. You could see the sort of um...**the little bit of lights that gets cast on the floor and the little imperfections of the fiber optics and it was an interesting visual experience.** Um...and then I was curious how this thing moved, in terms of, how did the various plains of lights interact when you start moving them around and moving through it.

**That was an interesting experience 'cos originally I started blowing on it to see if I could sort of to get a gentle sort of rocking.** And then moved up to **moving more slowly through and then I started very quickly moving around with my arm out to see how, like the sort of going from a light breeze to a stiffer breeze to um...one of the.. the hurricanes to hell just to see how the light would move around.** At that point I found it very interesting as well, I don't know, um...if I was supposed to, I hope I didn't tie any in knots, but **I went quite quickly as quickly as I dared, and seeing the lights sort of spill off my arm and then sort of fall off into this empty black space. It was a very interesting experience, haven't sort of seen anything like that before, that was pretty fantastic.**

I also tried to look at it, at a sort of, trying to get it a different levels, sort of **tried to sit down, crouch down,** tried to be on it, on this plain, um...I should have, I didn't lay down. It would've been interesting to see it under the um...higher parts of the plain but I didn't do that so. Next time maybe. But yeah, no, it was really **quite intriguing experience.**

*I: Okay you talked a lot about um...different light effects and your movement related to that effect. Could we talk about specific moment? So first of all um...you talked about landscape, describe more about that?*

**P8:** Well the landscape feeling is really, when I first so, when it was first sort of lit in green. And so immediately, that 'okay well that sort of, fields of green.' So that's what made me start thinking a bout landscapes and then the sort of the way it flowed, **I started thinking of how grass moves and the wind.** So I started trying to mimic, this sounds goofy when I say it, but **I was trying**

**mimic the wind in the space.** Um...and I don't know if...the closest analogy I can probably use as an analog would be **'Flower'—for the Playstation 3.**

Yeah so that's what I was kind of trying to do and then I kind of wanted to see, I was noticing how the lights were moving and I wasn't sure if it was responding to me or if it was random or if it was on a pattern that it was doing. **And I never did find out or I didn't figure it out. So I just tried to just play with it and see what the light would do when I was doing various things.**

*I: So what did you try?*

**P8: I tried blowing on it,** which didn't have much of an effect, a very subtle effect when I blew on it. I tried sort of **moving through it** and seeing if my motion would only affect the things around me or just sort of have a ripple effect. And **then I started trying to get big in the space and faster as I became more and more convinced that moving through it wouldn't harm is so I tried to get faster, faster and faster.** The floor was a little slippery so uhh...I was interested in seeing um...what the light effects were when things were moving faster. It's a very serene sort of thing, as...**moving through slowly is very serene. It was very interesting, moving quickly through it to see how the light would.** Again it was kind of like this cascading spilling as you would gather some of them up and they would fall off as you sort of moved in. And it was almost like um...I think you've probably done this purposely, but when it was going in a circle with my arm out, it was creating almost, you know when you're have boat and you go around in a circle and out have the chop and you keep going and you can actually build a circle of fairly choppy water, in an otherwise fairly calm lake. There's that kind of effect. It was kind of neat where the things in the center were moving quite a lot. And the what was spilling off my arm was, could have been the **lake.**

*I: Could you talk about you know, the like you...how you feel regarding to the speed of your movement. Like so first you tried to blow out, a little bit then move slowly and then moved fast. And how did you feel?*

**P8:** Uh, generally the same, I was exploring, I was having fun. So the exploration is not really a feeling but **I was feeling good in the space. It was a fun space to play in.**

*I: Did you aware of other senses?*

**P8:** Touching, sound, um...this is I won't say it's a quiet space, there's the fan noise from the projector. Um...but it's very other than that sound, which is a very constant hum, there's not a lot of other sounds. So **I tried to make other noises to see if it would react to me that way.** I got no idea how this system is set up so in terms of I don't know if...

*I: You know that...*

**P8:** Well I know parts of it...I know that it's light cast into the ends of the fiber optic cables and you're projecting a pattern on that. But in terms, I'm assuming there's an infrared red camera up there, and I'm assuming you've got speakers set up somewhere, I'm assuming you've probably some microphone set up somewhere but **these are all assumptions I'm making.** I don't know for a fact. I mean I've been around enough to know that this is kind of thing that you do. So I have some pretty good ideas of what's going on in there. But in terms of how...plus how you set it up each time, I don't know if you have one that reacts to you, you have one that reacts to sound, one that you have to react to speed. I don't know if you have motion sensors on the fiber themselves.

*I: Yeah, we talked about those things.*

**P8:** Yeah, I can only imagine how much time this would've taken. I can only imagine how much time it would have taken to put a sensor in each one. It would've been a nightmare. But in terms of other sense, because it was so dark, **I found my eyes acclimated so I could see light that I wouldn't otherwise**, like I was seeing things in there now that I can't see now because this light is bright enough its wiping off some of the, the more subtle types of things. Sound-wise, um...again this sounds that I was making versus the hum of the camera. And it was an interesting sort of feeling as I was moving around um...I would feel them getting caught in my hair and pulling that way. And I was sort of moving quickly through it, **I found that, several would bunch up around my neck and my arm and they would sort of slide off and pulling off. There were always cooling and smooth to the touch.** They never really warmed up at all. And in terms of other senses, I didn't taste anything at all.

*I: Okay can you elaborate a little bit about your experience, you know, fiber optics around your neck, your skin...*

**P8:** Uh yeah, as I was **moving through quickly** trying to make the light move quickly. Um...I would have....and then afterwards, **I very specifically, sort of gathered them up and brought them out and tried to make a break in the light to see how the cascade would fill. I would feel them and I could almost still feel them on the back of my neck, it was sort of interesting.** I went around for a couple of minutes um...just sort of um...collecting and moving the fiber. And there would always be a few sort of pulling past my neck and my arms and whatnot. It was not unpleasant but it wasn't something I never felt before. It was sort of like...the only experience I can relate it to...would be to um...**like the cold leather on a bag strap.** If your at the beach and you've got it on your bare shoulders. Um...or um...if you're carrying a coiled up network cable or power cable, you got that sort of cold plastic-y feeling. It sort of felt like that for a little bit. Only quite a bit smaller. But once you get a bunch of them together, it was a significant amount of fiber.

*I: Okay um, what was the most strong experience from this project?*

**P8:** I'm not sure that I was shocked um...my favorite moment okay...um...probably actually, looking back at um..just past my arm, **when I was going around in a fairly wide circle. The lights were all blue I remember that.** And I remember each time it would fall off my arm and it would flick up a bit. And **I had this sort of stream of blue dots that were coming up over my arms, that were sort of flicking and coming back into their space, filling this sort of void that was there, disturbing all the lights around it. I think that was probably most beautiful thing I saw when was I was in there. That cascading of light.**

*I: How did you feel like any thing in your mind or thought?*

**P8:** I was having a good time. **I came in um..in not such a good mood because of some external thing and um...I came in and I immediately started feeling like I was having fun, it was enjoyable it was a good feeling and it was neat.** It was...it's kind of an overused word but it was kind of cool and **it made me feel better.**

*I: Okay um...can you describe you know qualities this environment has?*

**P8:** It's **quite dark.** Um...the once you get used to the lighting in there you can sort of start seeing more light which is sort of an interesting thing. **The layers of light are interesting because there's a few layers that you can sort of experience and there's the bottom kind of landscape layer, the chronicle sort of layer of light from the projector. And there are some similar imperfections throughout the fiber where some of them I think are coincidentally um...flawed in the same sort of length or bend or whatnot.** So you get light at

a sort of, not necessarily random, well it could be random I don't know, but it was in some cases it was like there are lights and I would sort of see one and I remember seeing how the light would be reflected off of these imperfections in one of the strands so I would spend a couple of seconds just the sort of. Like I mean it was, it looked like it was a fully functioning thing, like the end piece didn't seem dimmer than the rest of them. But it was interesting, the pattern of the light on the imperfections of the strand.

*I: Um...did your experience or feelings or any **bodily experience or inner experience** is anything changed through the session?*

**P8:** Yeah, no **I came in, in a pretty bad mood and I'm in a much better mood. Haha so yes, my mood got better.** So it made me happier than I was because I was irritated and unhappy when I came in and uh I was feeling happy and playful in that and I'm feeling yeah, it's fun and feeling good. So yes, **something changed.**

*I: anything you want to add?*

**P8:** Not at this point. Not at the top of my head.

## Session 2 (Sound)

*I: Okay um, so let's talk about the experience from this second session and then later we'll kind of compare the difference. What was your experience?*

**P8:** It was fun it was interesting. Um...I noticed that it **was fairly early on that this time it was responding to me and that um...as I moved faster it made a "whoooooot" kind of sound.** That was interesting and I also noticed that the fibers were connected to either a microphone directly or to a mainframe that a membrane that was connected to a microphone so **I could play with the string or with the fiber and have it make a sound, very specifically as I'm moving through it.**

*I: What kind of sound?*

**P8:** It was a sort of um...was **very percussive.** It was like tapping on a microphone. Like this sound 'tap tap tap' haha you get that there. But it was very very sort of like it was sort of, it was just like that tapping sound is what it reminded me off. So it felt very percussive so I felt like okay, well I could sort of maybe move through this space in a specific rhythm and try and treat it like. **Like I started actually treating the whole space like a percussion instrument or tried to.**

*I: So you heard um, two kinds of sound?*

**P8:** Um, and then there was that **random clicking**

*I: Ah Okay*

**P8:** Which I think is still going. Umm but yeah, **the random clicking was interesting because they gave me something to try and mimic that 'snap snap snap' sort of sound kind of works.** Well I'll just play with that for a little bit and see what I can do. Um...so yeah that was sort of, those were the kind of the three sounds. So yeah, those were sort of the three sounds and as I realized that going faster got that **'whooshing'** sound um...I was trying to I was going through the space and **'dat datta dat' with my hands tapping the fiber** as I went fast enough and I was getting the whooshing and the **random clicking.**

*I: Okay um, so you said it's interesting, how did you feel about the kind of sounds? Like the textures or sounds or the feelings of sounds?*

**P8:** It was sort of very **ambient**. It was sort of um...well I think it was...maybe I'm reading too much into it but it seemed like it was. I don't know, **with the dark and the wind it seemed like it was ...seeming very fairly desolate**. But I'm not sure that it was. Kind of hard to describe, it kind of reminded me of um...**being on a beach somewhere** or not necessarily a beach but if you've ever been **on sort of cliffs above a beach. You kind of get the rumble of the ocean**. You get the wind because you're up high, you get random sort of sounds because there are random sort of things around you. But that sort of was what I was thinking of visualizing what it was um, again with the light being very dim. The plain of the light was sort of against the eye level, it was sort of not necessarily flat, the way again that the imperfections you can sort of see it here. There's a sort of a rolling to the way the light is so...um...

*I: How was it to you? kind of plain of light...*

**P8:** It was interesting. **I tried not to look back this way**. I was spending most of my time spending that way, that way or that way. Just so that I could just keep the illusion a little bit 'cos as soon as you look out here, it's just like oh there's the light, okay. Um...but keeping it sort of in the black, you can sort of, I don't know imagine it a little easier.

*I: Um, so maybe sound and then you did quite a different gestures with fiber optics*

**P8:** Yeah, as I was going through, **I was playing with the different types of sounds** I could make with the fiber optic. Um...I wish I had something else in there with me because I was trying to at one point, I tried to separate one out grab it, pull it taught and pluck it but I couldn't do it well enough with just one hand 'cos I wanted to hear what the, I know what tapping it sounded like, and I knew what gathering it and sort of um..doing other things sounded like and I knew what sort of hitting or like I would go through sort hit individual strings or strands as I pass them and they would sort of make that **percussive sort of sound**. That **hitting sound**. And I wanted to see if it was possible to pull on one and pull it taught and have a sort of a, atonal, sound quality out of it. But I wasn't able to. Rather than just a percussive quality. And **so when I was going through and making those sort of gestures that was actually trying to make a rhythm in relation to what I was moving through**

*I: So kind of used this environment as a kind of instrument. What is the outcome did you get?*

**P8:** It was, it feels like a drum. Haha **it's a very percussive**. I couldn't get in terms of, I couldn't figure out how to get any melody out of it. So it was only rhythm. That was all I was able to do, um but still that pretty awesome.

*I: Did you feel the fiber optics in terms of tactility ...*

**P8:** um, yeah they would get. It was interesting. **They would get caught in my hair as I sort of walked by**. Again it was sort of you could feel it on your arms and whatnot and it's not at all warm **it's cool from the touch**.

*I: Was it different from the first session or similar?*

**P8:** Similar. **Feels very cold in there, in terms of them...well that might just be the room But the fibers cold**.

*I: You feel the environment is cold as well?*

P8: A little bit yeah

I: *Um, from the first session, did you feel kind of the same?*

P8: I didn't notice the environment in the first session, **I didn't notice the environmental**, I noticed the temperature, I remember the fiber feeling cool, then I remember this feeling cool and I'm cool now.

I: *You mean now means?*

P8: I'm sitting here now and I'm cool. Not cold but cool. And **I remember the feeling the coolness of the fiber**

I: *Um, what about your experience like inner experience? did you feel any changes for this session?*

P8: The second session only? No.

I: *Okay*

P8: I mean I was in a good mood and I'm still in a good mood.

I: *Um, now can you compare these two different experiences from first and second?*

P8: The first one is very visual and the second on was very audible. The first one was very much seeing how the light reacted to movement in this space whereas the second time was very much how, how could I use this environment to make noises that I want it to make. Um..there was a very audible experience, it was a very if I do this I can make this sound, if do this the system makes this sound. **How can I do this and move this way so that the sounds that are being generated can mesh in a pleasing way.**

I: *Um...so from the second, the quality of the second session experience was similar?*

P8: the quality of? How do you mean the quality?

I: *Um...the first one you know, you said it was playful...*

P8: **This one was very playful, very exploratory.** I think found myself exploring more what this thing would do. In terms of the audible part of it **because there was no light except for the sort of the ever present plain from this one um...so I spent a lot more time figuring out.** What's it doing? Is it just making random noises or is it reacting to me? and if it's reacting to me or if I can make a sound how can I make that work to be something more interesting?

I: *Okay then, I kind of hearing a little bit different quality of playful. So I mean the second one seems like you try to do something but more physical/realistic way?*

P8: Well I wouldn't say realistic but there was. I was definitely trying to um...once I figured out okay I can treat this **as a percussive instrument. I was trying to play it.** And that's um...that was the exploration I wanted to see what I could do with it. And I felt **playful** while I was doing. It was fun and I was enjoying it. But I was trying to figure something out.

*I: Can you I don't know maybe I'm finding you know, it difficult to differentiate, I kind of feel the two different qualities not too different by um...you know different qualities from the same word 'playful'. Can you describe?*

**P8:** Right okay. How can I even say this? When I play an instrument, I often don't have a set thing I'm going to play. I just riff or noodle or goof around and play whatever comes to mind. Or I just sometimes don't even think of it and I just play and I'm just playing it and I'm not thinking about what it is I'm playing. Um...now when I first come across an instrument there's a time where I don't know how to play so I have to figure out how to play it. And both can be playful and both can be energetic and fun. Now when you're playing an instrument you know. It's a different type of playfulness, you can goof around and whatnot but when you're just figuring something out, that's playful in a different way but it's still playful, right. It's still trying to figure something out, still trying to get something done. So in this case, **I tried to play it like a percussion instrument but I had to figure out what the instrument was and what can I do with this.** So there was, **that's why I'm saying exploration is trying to figure out what this thing does but it's still playful because it's still me having fun and trying to figure it out.**

*I: Okay, that was mostly from the second session.*

**P8:** Everything described there was from the second session. The first session, **in the first session was playful in that...um...haha. It was frolicking in a field playful. Where it's just fun to be in a space and experience it. It's fun to see how the lights move and see what happens when you run in a circle really fast.** Get a little bit dizzy and see how the space is looking when you're spinning a little bit and everything is moving around you and there's this new lighting experience. that's playful, a different kind of way but it is still playing. It's still trying to figure out what is this space doing.

*I: Anything you want to add?*

**P8:** No that's it.

### Session 3 (Both)

*I: So how was your experience?*

**P8:** This one was actually a little bit different. I took my glasses off so that I could have a sort of different experience of the light. Um...and **it turned out rather interesting because when I took my glasses off, when I look at the light generally it's unfocused so it made it seem like there was more connected light and more and more connected.** And so it really sort of helps, make the, like there's a sense of levels the light and it seems like there's this floor that's like an extra sort of bumpy floor that's like a foot off the ground. This time I also um...**I didn't explore the sound so much but I did notice that it was doing the same thing...**like one and two combined so you get the visual and the audio. But **with the visual, is so..unique.** um..that **I was having more fun playing with the visual than the sound.** Although I'm still very intrigued by a room that's an instrument so...gonna have to think about it a little more.

In terms of the light I want to experience, happened from different perspectives too so **I got right down on the floor and looked up and it's interesting ...it's actually a very different experience because from the floor you're not looking down at these points of light that look like a 3-Dimensional um...form.** You're looking up at these glowing strings coming out of the ceiling and these little dots of light right in front of your face...almost painfully bright. It was



kind of um...interesting experience. But from that level and having my head right there, it looked more like looking edge on...umm...I can't even describe it necessarily, I guess it would be like a **starfield** but I mean it's instead of looking down on it, you're looking through it. So it's a very sort of compressed and different look at...don't know how quite to describe it. **It was neat.**

*I: So when you kind of looked through the lights, the points of lights, you said it's hard to describe but can you kind of connect to any similar experience or any kind of...*

**P8:** The closest thing I can think of is...that **old Windows 95 star field windows screen saver** I think. And looking at sort of the things moving back and forth but instead of it being on a 2D plain, it's actually 3D and it's actually moving in 3 dimensions like things don't swing back and forth because they are on fixed length strings they actually, they're pendulums. Not only do they...like when you look down on them, it seems like it's moving like this but when you're down in it, the experience is now not down..it's not this spread out thing but it's this compressed thing that's moving sort of away from you and forward. **The way that it's manifested is by moving up and down very slightly because of the way...it's very different it was really kind of neat.**

*I: So in this session, you kind of were engaged more with light. What about sound?*

**P8:** Yeah for sure. I noticed that the sound, that it reacted to me in a much the same way as it had in the second session. Um...and I started to play with it and this is...in terms of diverting my attention, I could concentrate on the sound or the light **and I was more interested in the light because it's a more unique experience.** And I've not experience light moving that way so I wanted to see that. So **that's what I chose to look at rather than playing with the sound.** But I did notice it reacting to me as I was moving quickly and whatnot. And I would suggest it added to it, that it was not the focus of my attention.

*I: Um...so this one has sound and visual, can you describe about the quality of the environment?*

**P8:** The quality of the environment? Again I would describe it as **playful in the sort of the exploratory sense.** Again I was moving through and wondering what reacted to me. Obviously the light was reacting to me in a physical sense when I was able to move it in a physical sense. I did wonder about the relationship between the green to the blue. I also wondered why it's only green and blue. But I was curious if like if it was a spotlight, did it follow me? Did it react to me? **I didn't notice the light reacting to me as blatantly as the sound reacting to me.** The way I should say, the light that was projected um...how can I say this, **'cos obviously the light reacted to me because I could push it around.** If it was lit I could move it but in terms of what was being cast and where, I didn't think that had anything to do with me.

*I: So you mean the physical movement...*

**P8:** Yeah! Obviously that was I had control over but in terms of what parts were lit or what parts were lit up and what color I didn't notice that and it was, **I was kind of trying to play with and I didn't see that as being that responsive to me. I didn't know how to make a certain area blue. I didn't know how to make a piece of green follow me.**

*I: So you think it's more random ...?*

**P8:** Oh I don't know if it's random. In fact I, well it could be random. **But it seems likely that there's a pattern there.** I did...for all I know it's random. Haha

*I: Maybe it was hard to find the relationship to your movement?*



P8: Yeah

I: *Um..so this one has actually first one and second one combined right?*

P8: That's what I gathered...yeah..

I: *Um..yeah but um...it might not just be, first one because you had different experience from first and second. Um..so what I'm trying to ask is this session, the experience from session is based on the experience you had before...like first and second or it works as a little bit different ..way*

P8: I don't think it was based on. Well **actually you know what, there were a couple of things at the end of the first session that I had wanted to try and so I did in this session. Um..I treated this session more like the first session than I did in the second session.** I had sort of experimented to my satisfaction in the second session so I didn't do much more audio testing or playing but I hadn't played or as I was going through it. Maybe I was going through the second one or maybe during our conversation, I thought, you know I wanna try this, I wanna try this, I wanna try this. And so I did those things when I was in the third session. So **in the third session it felt a lot more like the first session to me because I was so focused on the visuals rather than focusing on the audio.**

I: *Now can you explain a little bit of overall difference? I mean the first, second, third? You kind of already explained it but um...*

P8: Yeah, the first one was very **visual**...um...and I was trying to see how the light, how I could move the light and see if the light reacted to me, in terms of what was being projected into the various areas.

The second one, **I was very interested, in the space as a percussion instrument 'cos I thought um...it was making noises. I wanted to make noises that were in time with what I was hearing. Um..so I was playing room to room.**

And then the third one, was a combination of both the visual and the audio but **I had discounted. I didn't pay attention to the audio as I did with the visual because the visual I felt was very striking.** So I wanted to play with that more.

I: *Okay um...if you tried any session one more time, what would you try again?*

P8: If I had it...if I had... if I were to do another session...that's a very good question. Um...I would say **the third one** hahaha. Because **I want to say the first session, the visuals were very interesting but the second session I spent a lot of time exploring and playing with the sound and I found that very interesting.** I don't know if I necessarily want to choose one or the other. So if you were to invite me in on a random day, I don't know what mood I would be in. the third session today, I'm not sure if I planned to do this, I focused more on the visuals rather than the audio. Um..i don't know if I would make that choice on a different day I might play with the sound more in the third one. Given what this is, um..i wish I ...had...I wish I were a dancer. Like some of the guys in "Stomp" would have a lot of fun in this. It's such a percussive sort of performance but it is a dance and so what you could do in terms of percussions and visuals in this space is very interesting. **I would probably go with the third one and then try and explore the sounds and the um..visual as performance.**

I: *Okay the quality of playful. The first one and the third, do you find different?*

P8: Very similar. Because I focused on the same sorts of things

*I: Uh yeah, do you have anything else?*

**P8:** No that was a lot of fun...thanks for inviting me.