



## LONDON PERFORMS

London was overrun in May with performance works and events. Performance duo Pil and Galia Kollektiv curated an adjunct programme at Shoreditch Town Hall, as part of the exhibition 'The Institute of Psychoplasmics' held at Pump House Gallery. Tai Shani and Insectoid created works with a similar low-tech approach, with both works consisting of handmade props. Tai Shani's work featured the deafening band Guapo playing throughout, while a series of virgins were covered in sperm from a huge papier-mâché penis, before being brought back to life by a high priestess. The exaggeratedly slow work by Insectoid, partly inspired by Kafka, left the mood of the rather trendily dressed crowd restless, and by the time it was over the venue was decidedly empty.

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/gallery](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/gallery)

Later that week, Oreet Ashery appeared outside the Church of Scientology, dressed in various men's clothing, which blended Israeli and

Oreet Ashery performing, followed by protesters from Anonymous

Islamic garments and that of Dalston market chic. The performance was based on the example of Shabtai Zvi, the remarkable false messiah, who converted to Islam in 1666 leaving his followers baffled. The performance also collided with the attempts of Anonymous, a group which sets out to expose the suspected control the Church of Scientology exercises over the internet. The otherwise empty city streets on a Saturday afternoon swelled with those wearing masks and those holding various placards. The ensuing police presence throughout Ashery's performance included several interruptions and inspections of not only the performer, but also a child's pram that contained two large fish. Ashery went on to kiss one of the fish at some length. The work suggested a complex engagement with the present Palestinian crisis, brought into clarity by handouts that Ashery gave to passers-by, during a long procession to fa projects. (Ashery will continue exploring this new Jewish/Islamic persona at the forthcoming Whitstable Biennale.) Additional performances continued through the afternoon, including those by *Plastique Fantastique* and the *bughouse*. [www.faprojects.com](http://www.faprojects.com) ■