

James Weeks

Puddle Canon

for a group of performers (at least two)

2026

Find a section of a track or a path with a number of rain puddles along its length.

Move through each puddle in sequence, one by one, focusing on the sound of the water as you go.

Each performer should start at least one or two puddles behind the previous, following the same route through the puddles.

Take your time, stopping after each puddle for a while before moving to the next one. Listen when you're between puddles as well as when you're in them.

Explore different ways of moving through the puddles to give different sounds: mostly walking (slowly or fast), sometimes running, sometimes shuffling, sometimes kicking up the water, sometimes jumping, etc. Find loud sounds and soft sounds.

Decide in advance within the group whether you are going to imitate each other's method of 'performing' each puddle (walking, shuffling, etc.), or whether you are going to choose your own sequence individually, in the moment. Everyone should adhere to the plan that is decided. (This choice will result in quite different experiences: imitating will divide your focus between your performance and that of the person ahead of you but will lead to more of a sense of a canon. Choosing your own individual sequence will allow you to focus on the sounds in the moment, but the overall effect will be less structured.)

This piece can be performed with or without an audience.

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