

Jo Fong &
George Orange

THE REST OF OUR LIVES

*"One of the most
joyful, celebratory
and hilarious
experiences of
my life"*

- Audience
Member

UK
THEATRE
AWARDS

NOMINEE
2023



PROMOTERS PACK 2024/25



The Rest of Our Lives is part of the This is Wales in Edinburgh showcase supported by Wales Arts International / Arts Council of Wales.

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Gymru this is
Wales

CHAPTER

GROUNDWORK



“This. Was. Amazing. Haven't had that much fun at a show in a long time. Beautiful, spectacular and really fucking funny. I laughed, I cried, and somehow I won the grand prize. I would highly recommend a night of dance, circus and games with Jo Fong and George Orange.” - Duncan Hallis, Artistic Director at Big Loop Theatre Company and Festival Director at Cardiff Fringe Theatre Festival

Jo and George have performed The Rest of Our Lives at dance festivals, theatre festivals, inclusive festivals, arts festivals, ageless and comedy festivals.

In 2023 many performances included integrated British Sign Language interpretation with Katie Fenwick.

Overseas. our first integrated live translated performances in Ho Chi Minh City and Hà Nội were supported by British Council and Wales Arts International.

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Photos by: Emily Wang, Sara Teresa, Craig Kirkwood, Paul Fuller

ABOUT THE SHOW

Join Jo and George for a joyful evening of dance, circus and games.

The struggle is real.

We're only at the beginning of the end.

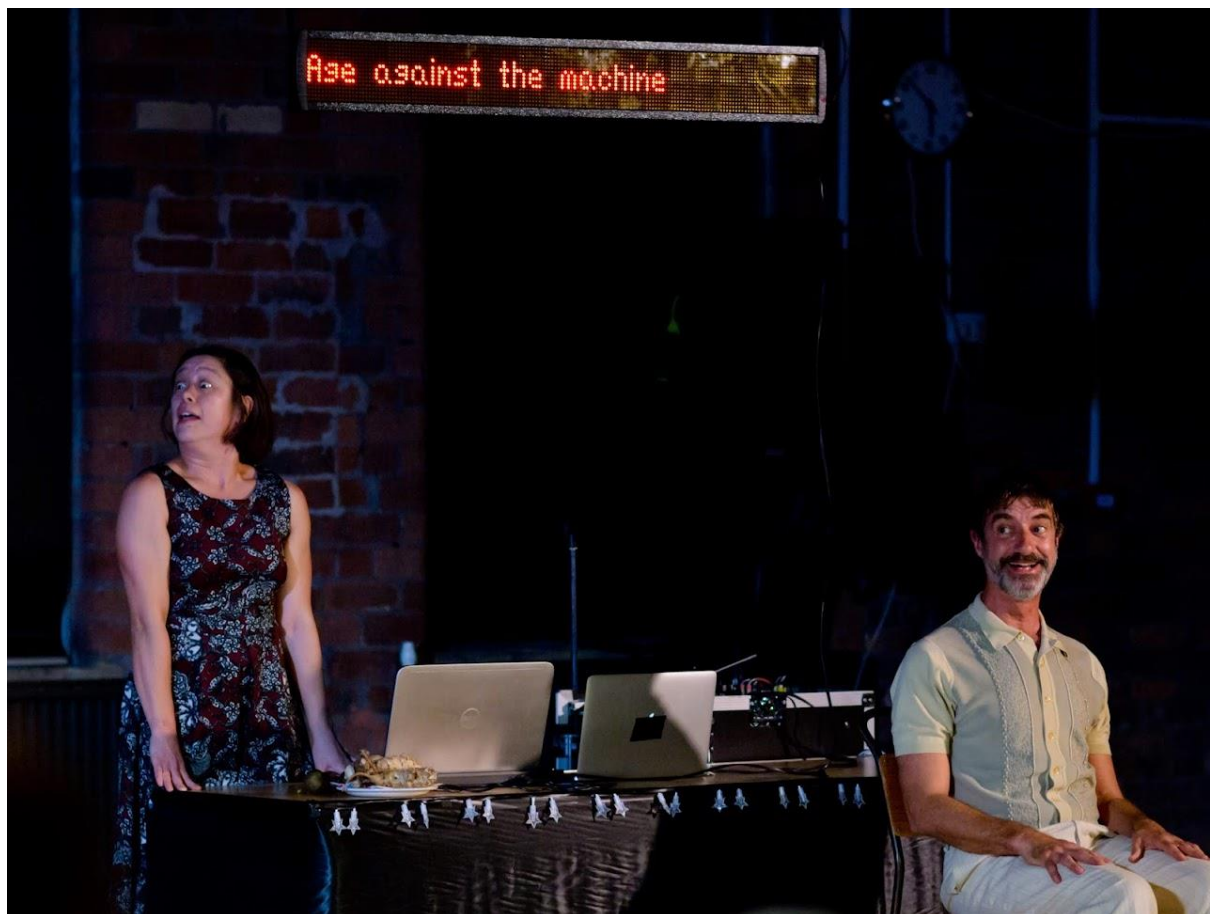
But we're all still here.

Jo is an old dancer, George an old clown. They are international artists with 100 years of life experience between them. They've reached the mid-way point, and now they're looking at the rest of their lives and wondering, what next?

Armed with a soundtrack of floor-fillers, a book of raffle tickets and a sprinkling of eco- friendly glitter. Join them as they negotiate middle-life together with humour, tenderness and outlandish optimism.

Specially commissioned by the Rural Touring Dance Initiative with funding from Arts Council Wales.

Age recommendation: 14+. Contains middle-aged themes and strong language.



What Happens?

The performance is multi genre.

Jo and George's performance and making backgrounds are in dance, theatre, live art, circus, clown, comedy, cabaret, street theatre... and more. Where their collaboration is most felt is its relationship with an audience. The idea we are all part of this predicament about The Rest of Our Lives, that there is some worth in approaching this Together.

The Rest of Our Lives is like medicine. A series of sketches, dance, circus, clown, stand up, arrested moments of life and death, games and ideas about getting older and importantly How To Be Alive? It is fueled on the idea that life is short, that there is loss, and as the show rolls, deviates and suspends the room begins to connect people. The experience becomes increasingly participatory and in the last throws audiences find themselves in a full on disco Dancing for their lives.

The contemporary physical performance showcases seasoned award-winning performers who are excellent in their individual crafts, together they're not afraid to take Performative Risk. The Rest of Our Lives is sensational in all senses of the word, it's about the body and chemistry of being together, the stuff that has been so lacking during COVID, the murk of middle-age, memory loss, dementia, costs, crises, strikes, housing, interest rates, oppression, arts (the disappearing of)...



Duration:

80 mins

The concept of the show is about spending time together. We, together with the audience, notice time more, plus there's more tracks at the end to have a really good boogie and our very important QUIZ gets back into the scheme of things, more homegrown prizes, it is the How do we go from here....? part of the show.

A PERFORMANCE FOR A VARIETY OF SPACES

The Rest of Our Lives is a two-hander designed for village halls and studio theatres. Yet we have performed in giant halls where the audience is seated on the stage.

Min. performance space (width x depth): 6m x 9m (We can be flexible about this – please contact us for a discussion)

Audience are seated on three sides forming a performance arena in the centre.

In some spaces we have had a raised second row. If your space has raked seating, we usually sell the first 5 rows.

Preferred floor - wooden (not concrete or carpeted).

Capacity: 100 (space permitting) (This is an artistic decision, that helps to make sure every audience member feels like they are part of this experience)

Previous Touring includes:

Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Nio, supported by the British Council and Wales arts International

House Southeast Theatre Network

Small World Theatre, Cardigan

Summerhall, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022 - These performances were supported by Wales Arts International as part of the Wales in Edinburgh Showcase.

Ageless Festival, Yorkshire Dance

Machynlleth Comedy Festival

The Place Theatre, London

Chapter Arts Centre

Seven village halls across England as part of the Rural Touring Dance Initiative



Performances in 2024:

The Rest of Our Lives will be at Battersea Arts Centre for three weeks in June 2024. For a full list of upcoming performances [click here](#).

ACCESS

We have worked with British Sign Language Interpreter Katie Fenwick to create a version of the show with integrated interpretation. Katie is well regarded in the d/Deaf community and has a large following her expertise includes music gigs and live theatre.

Pre-show information is available for audiences [here](#).

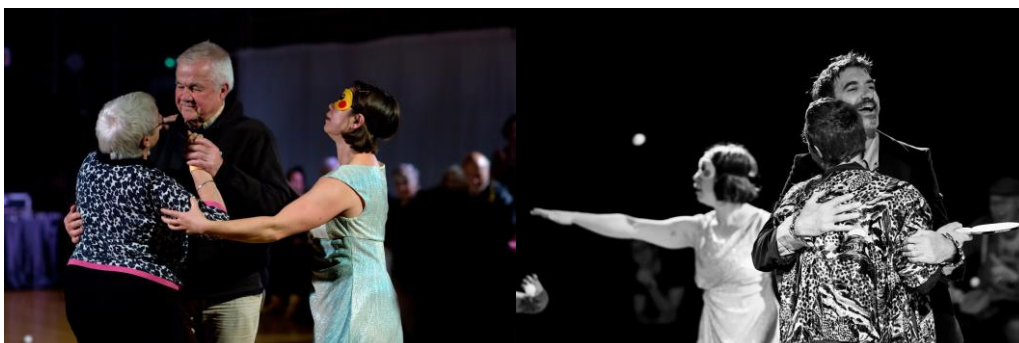


AMBITIONS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES

We're interested in community building that happens in new ways and with a focus on diversifying audiences.

We've been delighted with how the show has landed with people in village halls, arts centres, festivals and theatres. We're finding a warmth and necessary sense of coming together that fits this time. We're based in south Wales and can travel. George owns a van and we have managed to get around pretty well.

A focus on us coming to your local communities. So far, the huge work on diversifying audiences at arts events has a long way to go... to date, with each performance and as a small team of Queer and mixed ethnic heritage people, we do our best to bring new people to arts events, so far we have had some success.



INTERNATIONAL

Given climate change we try our best to avoid planes. But we do like a boat or a train.

We successfully presented the show in Viet Nam with live translation, working with a local translator and integrating them into the performance. The process for this can work as follows:

- An initial Zoom conversation with a selected local translator who will help with translating written texts and selected lyrics used in the show prior to arrival.
- On arrival we work with a selected local translator for two half days min to anchor the performance.
- The translated performance is part projected, part on a text box, with some dialogue spoken by Jo and George in the local language plus live translation performed by the local translator as a third performer.

Depending on the language these extra pre-performance rehearsals could happen in the UK working with a British bilingual person, but of course working with someone local means nuance of that particular place can be integrated into the performance.



WORKSHOPS

Jo and George are exceptional teachers, both currently lead workshops for any age and level of experience or ability. Both are highly experienced in leading workshops designed for people with different needs, disability and learning difficulties. [Click here](#) for more information and images.

Example workshops:

Jo Fong: A 2 hour movement workshop for adults who love to move.

George Orange: Clown / mime. A 1.5 hour workshop for young people or people with learning disabilities.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Min. performance space (width x depth): 6m x 9m (our show is adaptable, let's chat)

Get-in: 5 hours

Get-out: 1 hour

Essential:

- Amazing sound system (operated by Jo and George from the stage) We travel with a mini mixing desk which plugs into yours, the performers operate sound from the stage
- Simple Lighting – 12 cues (usually operated by in house staff) warm open state, four specials

More technical information can be found:

- [here](#) for studio theatres, or
- [here](#) for community venues and village halls



COSTS

Fee: £1000 per show (negotiable for longer runs)

We pay our artists and technicians, provide print and marketing tools and work hard to help tell potential local audiences on social media. d/Deaf accessible interpreted performances have additional costs.

Plus - We live in south Wales, so there are additional travel, per diem and accommodation costs. We are three on the road Jo, George and one technician.

Accommodation required: 3 single rooms (2 performers, 1 technician). As a company we are happy to stay with supporters of your theatre or arts centre.

Please note: due to allergies we cannot stay where there is a CAT!



FURTHER INFORMATION

jofong.com/portfolios/therestofourlives/

MARKETING LINKS

[Trailer](#)

[Lead image](#) (credit Catriona James)

[Additional images](#)

[Marketing pack \(including copy for your venue website\)](#)

[Sample press release](#)

[Digital Assets](#)

facebook.com/TheRestOfOurLives

[#TheRestOfOurLives](https://twitter.com/JoFong)

Jo

twitter.com/JoFong

George

instagram.com/georgeorange/



REVIEWS AND AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

UK Theatre Awards 2023 nominee for Achievement in Dance

"Life is too short not to live like this." – [The Scotsman](#)

"Fong and Orange have found a blueprint for happily living the rest of our lives." – [The Guardian](#)

"whatever your age, it will make you very happy indeed" - Lyn Gardner, Stagedoor

"If there is one thing you do this year, it's go and see The Rest of Our Lives." – [Get the Chance](#)

"We are included in their movement, in their questions and their joys, in ways that feel completely loving and unthreatening." – [Broadway Baby](#)

"What a glorious way to start the day." – [UKTW](#)

"I left this show feeling uplifted and hopeful that there is much more to come." – [Ed Fringe Review](#)

"a playful, optimistic show" – [Wales Arts Review](#)

"ludicrous and surprisingly moving" – [Tom Boulton](#)

"Its tenderness, hilarity, sadness, beauty and joy blew us away. It reached deep in our hearts to make them sing, and will stay with us a long time. It's a rare and special show that should be seen by everyone."

"One of the most joyful, celebratory and hilarious experiences of my life"

"Utterly wonderful, moving and hilarious, and quite simply restored my faith in humanity"

"Stunning. Thank you for bringing that experience - to call it comedy, apart from it being beyond funny, is to reduce it from the stratospheric immersion that it is."

"Your work makes my life better"

"Moving, memorable and unique."

"Quite possibly one of the best things I've ever experienced. Bravo."

"Lovely to have this heart warming show in the Parish Hall.... Lots of smiles and connections made in the audience which was heartening to see."

"Literally up there in my top five life experiences! Such brilliant stuff."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Jo Fong lives in Wales and her creative work reflects the need in these times for people to come together. Her artistic practice is an evolving, collaborative approach which puts ideas around belonging or forming community in the forefront. As a director, choreographer and performer recent presentations include *An Invitation...*, *Belonging* for Hull Year of Culture, *Bridge* for Xintiandi Festival Shanghai, and *Ways of Being Together* for Cardiff Dance Festival 2017 and CAN Festival, London 2020. Jo and artist

Sonia Hughes' live art performance *Neither Here Nor There* was most recently presented at Summerhall, Vitlycke Contemporary Art Festival in Sweden and GIFT in Gateshead. During COVID, They led on a number of digital and walking projects called *What Will People Need?* *The Sun's Come Out, Come Rain or Shine* and *To Tell You The Truth*, for Dublin Theatre Festival. More... *A Brief History of Difference* with Das Clarks, *Marathon of Intimacies* with artist Anushiye Yarnell, Jo contributed to Luke Hereford's *Grandmother's Closet*. Jo is a Creative Associate with the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff where she presented *How Shall We Begin Again*.

jofong.com



George Orange is a performance artist, circus performer, outdoor theatre maker, former mascot, ex drag performer, creator of *Mary Bijou Cabaret*, circus director, and physical theatre teacher. But most of all, and without a doubt, he is a CLOWN. George's artistic approach is to follow failure towards success, it seems to be working just fine. Jo and George were awarded a grant through The British Council for UK/Viet Nam Season 2023. They are planning a return to Viet Nam to continue the work with their new friends there. In the

meantime, he continues touring his one man circus show, *Man On The Moon*, against all medical advice. A couple of years ago he followed his boyhood dream of achieving an academic something. George is now a master of directing circus, George Orange MA, he's an achiever, he also achieved British Citizenship. George will be at Machynlleth Comedy Festival for the 12th year. George is a lecturer at Circomedia in Bristol. georgeorange.com



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