

SUMMERHALL
Open Minds Open Doors

A morning of dance & cabaret from...
**Jo Fong &
George Orange**

THE REST OF OUR LIVES

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

- Audience
Member



PROMOTERS PACK 2022

Rural and Community Venues



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



wales arts international
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Nodi gan
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ARIENNIR GAN
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dance house
ty dawns

WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

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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dyma us
Gymru this is
Wales

CHAPTER

GROUNDWORK

RURAL TOURING
DANCE INITIATIVE
Taking the best dance happenings to rural spaces

"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"

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Photos by: Emily Wang, Sara Teresa, Craig Kirkwood and Catriona James

ABOUT THE SHOW

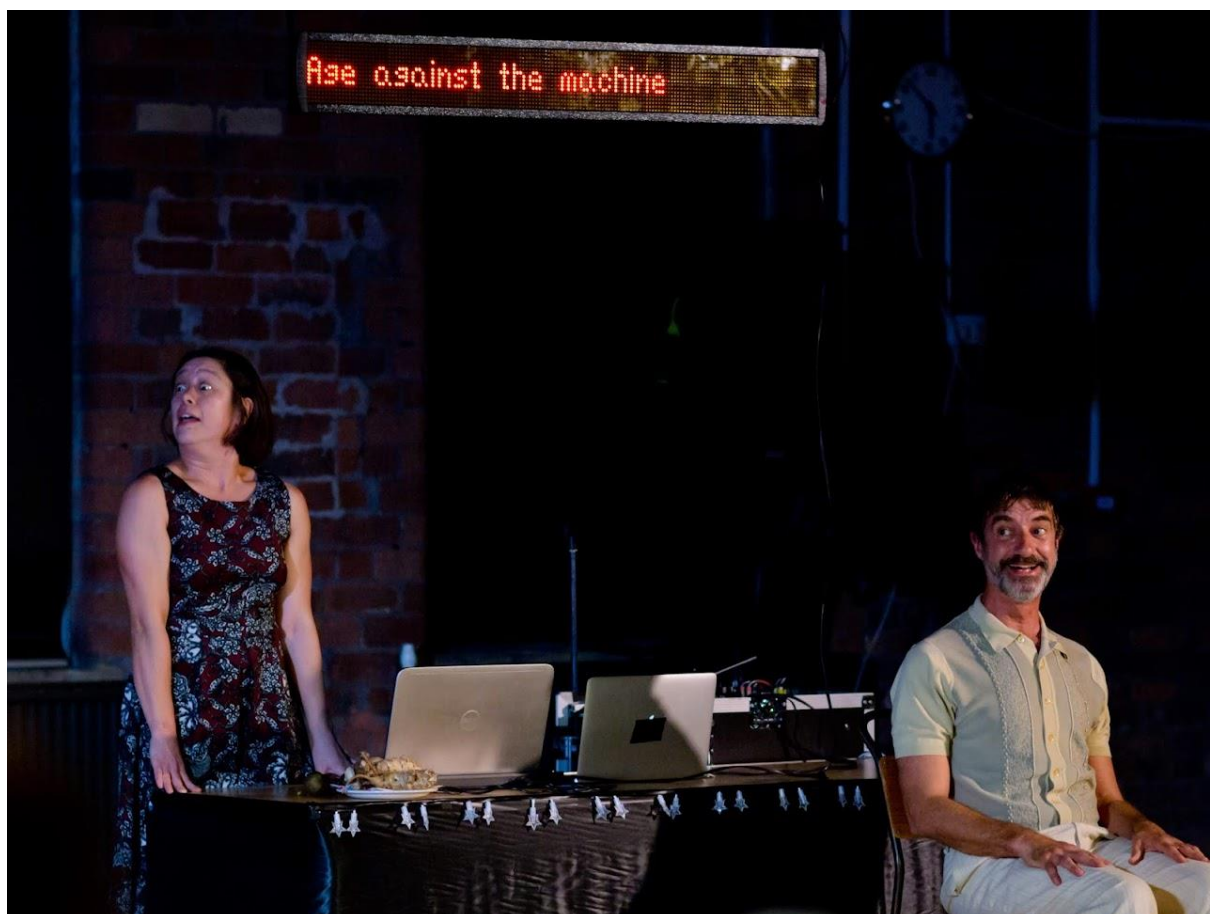
Join Jo and George at Summerhall for a joyful morning dose of dance, circus and games.

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.



Duration:

90 mins (if requested we can do an interval)

Note: For Edinburgh we have brought the timing down to 60 mins to showcase the performance. 90 minutes is how we see the show in its fullest state.

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 RAFFLE gets back into the scheme of things, more homegrown prizes, it is the How to 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.

Min. performance space (width x depth): 6m x 9m

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

If your hall has a badminton court this show and audience seating will easily fit into your space. The show can also adapt to different community spaces.

Preferred floor - wooden (rather than concrete or carpeted).

The team arrange chairs on three sides for the audience. (horseshoe shape)

Capacity: This varies with each venue, please get in touch with us to discuss how this might work in your hall.

Previous Touring includes:

Ageless Festival, Yorkshire Dance

Machynlleth Comedy Festival

The Place Theatre, London

Dance House, Cardiff

Chapter Arts Centre

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



The show was performed be at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2022

Venue 26: Summerhall

10.15am, 16 - 28th August

These performances were supported by Wales Arts International as part of the Wales in Edinburgh Showcase.

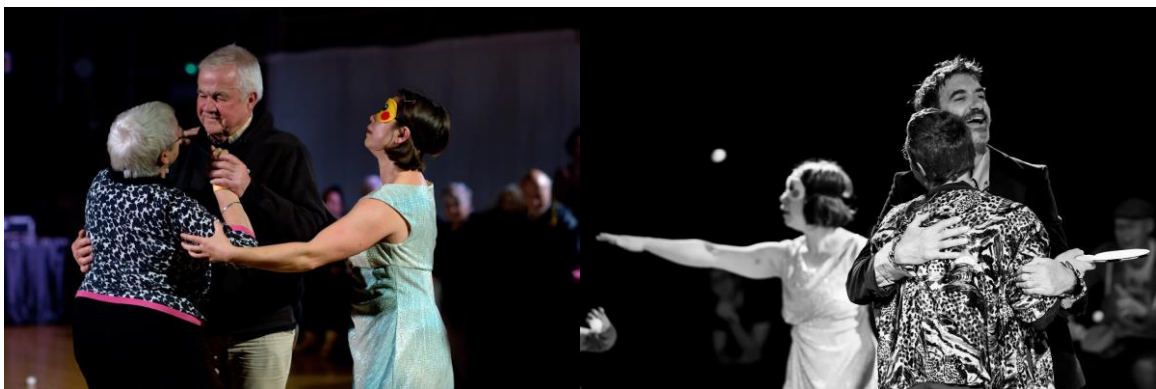
AMBITIONS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES

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. 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.

Given climate change we're not so interested in getting on planes. But we do like a boat or a train.



WORKSHOPS

Jo and George are exceptional teachers, both currently teach 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.

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.



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Min. performance space (width x depth): 6m x 9m

Get-in: 5 hours

Get-out: 1 hour

Technically self-contained - we travel with our own light and sound equipment.

More technical information can be found [here](#).



COSTS

We pay our artists and technicians, hire all the technical equipment we need, provide print and marketing tools and work hard to help tell potential local audiences on social media.

£900

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 village hall or community space. Please note: due to allergies we cannot stay where there is a CAT!

Fund performances in your local community

Have you heard about the UK's rural touring support?

If you are a community venue in Wales, you can book the show through Arts Council of Wales' Night Out scheme. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Find out about Rural Touring Dance Initiative [HERE](#).



FURTHER INFORMATION

jofong.com/portfolios/therestofourlives/

MARKETING LINKS

[Trailer](#)

Lead image [1](#) or [2](#) (credit Catriona James)

[Show images](#)

[Sample press release](#)

[Digital Assets](#)

facebook.com/TheRestOfOurLives

[#TheRestOfOurLives](#)

Jo

twitter.com/JoFong

George

instagram.com/georgeorange/



AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"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"

"I haven't had that much fun at a show in a long time"

"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."

"Fantastic night! A bit avant garde for me. I don't know what just happened but it was great. So clever. Had a lovely time, it felt so good to enjoy our village events again. Many thanks. Didn't expect to be disco dancing tonight!"

"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 2019, Vitlycke Contemporary Art Festival in Sweden and GIFT in Gateshead. During COVID, They have been leading 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* which is also at Summerhall this year. Jo is a Creative Associate with the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff. 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. He continues touring his one man show, *Man On The Moon*, against all medical advice. Last summer he did 50 outdoor performances in England, Wales and Germany. 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. Next dreams include leading a research circus lab and initiating a graduate circus performance company. George is a lecturer at Circomedia in Bristol. georgeorange.com





CONTACTS

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