NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

SUMMERHALL
Open Minds Open Doors

...a series of six-minute conversations
created & hosted by Jo Fong & Sonia Hughes



"A LEAP OF FAITH"
– Culture Colony Magazine

"A RARE EXPERIENCE"
– Arts Scene Wales

PROMOTER'S PACK 2026

Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru Arts Council of Wales | wales arts international celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru | Wedi'i gyn Llywodraeth Cymru Sponsored by Welsh Government | ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI LOTTERY FUNDED | CHAPTER | PEILOT RHAGLEN ARTISTIAID CYSYLLTIOL CHAPTER ASSOCIATE ARTIST PROGRAMME | CAN CHINESE ARTS NOW 當代華人藝術

jofong.com | mattocksandhughes.com | Photo: Solomon Hughes | Design: Lisa Mattocks

"*These questions are anything but inconsequential. They are here, they are there. In fact, they're essential. These (moderate) speed dates skip past flirtation – it's straight into the big stuff... In an airy room looking out onto the street, it's clear that we have to look in to look out, and vice versa. Change begins inside of us, and in the spaces between us. We have to speak into the spaces that are open.*" - Exeunt Magazine

1. **Neither Here Nor There**
2. **About the show**
3. **The way the event works**
4. **A performance for a variety of spaces**
5. **International touring and language**
6. **Ambitions for Neither Here Nor There**
7. **Workshops**
8. **Technical requirements**
9. **Costs**
10. **Further information**
11. **Marketing links**
12. **Reviews**
13. **Contacts**
14. **About the artists**
15. **Other available works**



Neither Here Nor There at Scare the Horses, Exeter. Photography Benjamin J Borley

NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

… a series of six-minute conversations created and hosted by Jo Fong and Sonia Hughes

Sonia and Jo host a series of conversations that happen over 6 minutes.

Weather permitting there will be a walk, natter, chat, table, chairs, come in sit down.

There will be solos, duets and ensemble moments.

Complexity takes time, it requires multiple voices, many levels of expertise and patience in the unspectacular.





ABOUT THE SHOW

When was the last time you made time to talk?

Life is hectic, and real human connection feels increasingly rare. Artists Sonia Hughes and Jo Fong champion the power of slowing down and having real conversations in their live art performance, Neither Here Nor There. In what audiences have described as ‘inspiring and heartfelt’, this experience engages different voices, perspectives and lives to pose the question, ‘how can we live together?’.

Join Sonia and Jo for a short walk, followed by conversations designed to make ‘a leap of faith’ (CCQ Magazine), and surrender to this intimate and refreshing look into the power of communication.

This project has been inspired by research undertaken by Frank Bock and Katye Coe and was originally created for Experimentica Festival 2018. When we created the work we felt its need but we wondered if the show would age. Sadly this work may be more urgent than ever.

Neither Here Nor There is commissioned by Chapter and LAUK Diverse Actions and supported by Arts Council of Wales.

Age Guidance: Neither Here Nor There asks audience members to engage in conversation with a stranger. For this reason we recommend that admittance is restricted to ages 16+. Babes in arms are welcome.

THE WAY THE EVENT WORKS

Pre show Set up - minimum 2 hours

Show - duration 1 hour 30 mins

Audiences arrive (capacity 24).
People pick up their tickets from Box Office and are directed to us standing with a placard outside the building (if it's raining we skip this bit or provide umbrellas). We start outside the building - the event starts with a short walk around the local streets approx. 8/10 minutes. It's about getting through the initial - hellos how are yous etc. Slowing down and getting a bit of a feel for the place. Gentle connecting. A moment when all that chatter that has to happen happens. Latecomers can help themselves to a drink as we return to the performance space. (It's useful if an usher is available for latecomers, they can welcome them and offer latecomers a drink.)

Jo and Sonia and the audience arrive in the room.
Sound (one of the performers presses play on the track - a bell goes off every 6 minutes and there are some musical interludes).

Coats and bags - help yourselves to a drink / snack.

Audiences then take a seat they are not directed, people can sit anywhere, it's just obvious - we have set up the chairs in relaxed pairs.

Another bell goes off - Jo or Sonia does a six minute solo / intro / monologue. We hand out cards with questions or instructions on them to the audience and they begin - every 6 minutes there is a shift - and during the music moments we change chairs.

There is another solo moment.

The show ends very fluidly with conversation continuing - in essence there is no end, just the banter of in depth conversation and people trying to make a good end to their conversation. We provide free sheets with credits and these are handed out at the end of the performance.

During the show we prefer the event to be alcohol free i.e. conversations not fuelled by alcohol but for evening performances it's nice to open the bar at the end of the show.
In the past it has taken between 10 and 50 mins for audiences to leave the room.

If we were doing two shows in one evening - there is a changeover to do.
But it's also very relaxed - maybe a last orders call would be useful for the first round of audiences.

A PERFORMANCE FOR A VARIETY OF SPACES

We have previously performed in community centres, galleries, libraries, cafes, art centres, village halls, a vegan barber shop and a chapel. NHNT works particularly well in a festival context it creates a space for audience, volunteers, artists to meet on an equal level and can create connections that thread through and beyond the festival.

Previous Touring includes:
Harstad, Norway. Festspillene i Nord-Norge Summerhall, Edinburgh.
Photogallery, London. (CAN Festival) Chinese Community Centre, London.
National Eisteddfod of Wales / Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, Llanrwst

INTERNATIONAL TOURING AND OTHER LANGUAGES

Currently available in English and Welsh - Jo and Sonia have devised a way for this to happen in any language. Read on to find out more.

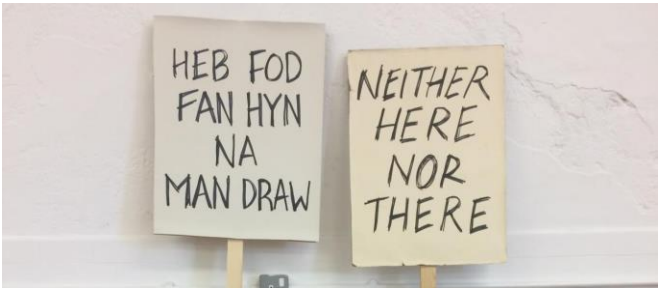
We have successfully toured international venues in Norway and Sweden with a plan to visit BapAmarante Festival near Porto this summer.

We are keen to work with local artists to hand on the work into local languages. Currently we are discussing a French version with artists Marilou Craft and Alex ’Spicey” Landé in Montreal.

Our Welsh version is hosted by performers Eddie Ladd and Sara McGaughey. We enjoy how this performance serves different languages and further languages that are under threat of disappearing.

Jo and Sonia are, and work together with, female, middle aged, international, provincial artists who then deliver the performance.

Sometimes we bring our own bilingual team or work with recommended local performers.



AMBITIONS FOR NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

We are particularly interested in encouraging more conversations between people who wouldn't ordinarily meet and between people who would not normally go to arts events. We want our audiences to more closely reflect the places we are visiting. We want to mix it up and hear a diversity of voices.

This might mean Jo and Sonia working with a local group or community centre prior to performances and through workshops start to build trust in the ideas and us. We encourage offers or subsidised ticketing which means those with minority backgrounds or where ticket prices are a barrier between would be more able to attend. Similarly, this might mean holding a performance in alternative or community space.





WORKSHOPS

Jo and Sonia are able to provide workshops for adults. They are particularly interested in working with women's groups, East Asian and black communities.

Suggested 2 or 3 hours with refreshments.

The workshop is based on the techniques from the show of talking and listening, some written exercises that create connection.

Structured conversation about place, home, family and a sense of belonging or empowerment.

Also available to book:

Nettles: How to Disagree?: a co-creative practice initiated by Jo and Sonia. Click here for more information.

Lady Marmalade - Band Practice: brings together women (inc. trans, non-binary…) to form a band in 2.5 hours followed by lunch together.

Liveness - This Moment: A movement workshop led by Jo Fong





TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

We ask each venue to provide:

- Music system and Speakers are required (a cafe sound system is usually sufficient)
- A wire so Jo can plug in her iPad. (Jo brings own iPad and Charger to run the sound)
- Light - whatever is there and lifting where possible to a friendly welcoming state - not gloomy
- Windows are helpful but not essential
- 26 chairs
- Tables - as many as you have available
- Coat rail and hangers (or if the room has coat hooks enough for 26 people is also fine)
- Kettle / Flasks / Urn
- 26 cups
- 26 glasses
- 2 water jugs
- Fruit bowl
- 3 plates
- 2 tea-spoons
- Knife (for any cake / fruit cutting)
- 10 umbrellas

Jo and Sonia provide:

- Milk
- Napkins
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tea
- Fruit
- Dates
- Table cloth
- Jo's iPad and charger plus back up
- Show cards
- Free sheets for after the show
- Flyers/posters
- Banner (prop)

If anything on the above list is not possible - just let jofongjofong@gmail.com know and she will look into how to bring these items.

One rehearsal / get in day is required.

COSTS

Costs are based the number of performance days and include artist fees, set requirements, admin and marketing support. They do not include travel, accommodation and per diems.

We are able to do two performances in one day
(3 hours between performances - suggested 4pm and 7pm).

Examples
2 shows in one day - £1000 plus travel, accommodation and per diems
5 shows in 3 or 4 days - £2000 plus travel, accommodation and per diems

Workshops
A 2.5 hour workshop will be £400.

Local Languages and rehearsals
When working on a translated version a five day residency is recommended. We are open to different ways of approaching this. We could work with a venue or festival or group of venues or a local tour booker to explore taking the work further afield. There are also royalties to be paid if there are further performances beyond the residency. The venue will also need to provide the pull up banner and translations of the cards used in the show for printing prior to the event. If you are interested in this approach and would like performances in a local language please discuss with jofongjofong@gmail.com. Appropriate crediting is essential.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.jofong.com/portfolios/neither-here-nor-there/

Community venues in Wales can also book the show through Arts Council of Wales' Night Out scheme. Click here for more info.



MARKETING LINKS

Show images
Sample press release
facebook.com/NeitherHereNorThere
#NeitherHereNorThere

Jo
facebook.com/joanne.fong.79
instagram.com/fong.jo

Sonia
facebook.com/sonia.hughes.94
instagram.com/soniahughes192

www.patreon.com/neitherhere

REVIEWS

"*A leap of faith*" - Culture Colony

"*A rare experience*" - Arts Scene in Wales

"*Let's all be braver*" - Exeunt Magazine

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"A quiet, but powerful revolution"

"The most amazing, illuminating, life-affirming conversations with strangers"

"The opposite of fascism"

"Thought provoking, cathartic and quite lovely"

"I love this show, a show for me, a middle-aged show"

"A quirky, challenging, inspiring and ultimately heart-warming event - I definitely came away with an inner glow"

"Holding space in a way that created empathy and intimacy amongst strangers"

"Surprising, challenging, rewarding, beautiful, moving"

CONTACTS

Jo Fong Artist and Producer — jofongjofong@gmail.com, +44 (0)77 8754 2394

Sonia Hughes Artist and Producer — soniahughes65@hotmail.com, +44(0)79 4742 1981

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Jo Fong and Sonia Hughes have worked together on several projects including
Wallflower and Entitled for Quarantine, Ways of Being Together, and The Kitchen Table research as part of Jo's Creative Wales Award Project 2017. Jo and Sonia also contributed to National Theatre Wales' and Quarantine's co-production for Festival of Voice 2018. Sonia and Jo led on a number of film, 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. Their most recent work is Nettles: How To Disagree? Which was presented at Chapter in Cardiff and OFFTA, Montreal 2025.



Sonia Hughes is a writer and performer. She has been touring her outdoor performance piece I Am From Reykjavik for the last 5 years, it deals with home, stranger and entitlement. She has taken part in over 20 festivals worldwide from Norway to South Africa, Scotland to Canada. Previous collaborations have been with dancers, directors and visual artists Darren Pritchard, Mark Whitelaw, Mem Morrison, Max Webster, Humberto Velez, Fiona Wright and Eggs Collective. Her extensive work with Quarantine as writer includes the award-winning Susan and Darren, the epic Summer. Autumn. Winter. Spring and writer for Jeremy Deller's What is the City But the People? for Manchester International Festival 2017.



Jo Fong is an award-winning director, choreographer and performer working in Dance, Theatre, Film and Live Art. She 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.
Some recent highlights include How Shall We Begin Again? at Wales Millennium Centre 2023 and Siobhan Davies Studios London 2022, Ways of Being Together at Chapter 2019 and Shoreditch Town Hall 2020, A Brief History of Difference created with DAR of Das Clarks, and Sons and Mums created with Everybody Dance in Malvern, a beautiful collaboration with 6 men who have autism and their mums. Jo is currently contributing to research with a number of projects; IcoDaCo European Collectives project, The Choreography of Consent, and The Agency of Matter - No Despair together with artist Deborah Light. She recently initiated a project called Making a Clearing inviting Wales' freelance Global Majority dance artists to come together this winter.
Jo and circus artist George Orange have been touring their celebrated performance The Rest Of Our Lives to New York's Under The Radar Festival, SaigonTheatreLand in Viet Nam and their 100th performance was in Pontypridd this February.
jofong.com

OTHER AVAILABLE WORKS by Jo Fong and Sonia Hughes



Nettles: How to Disagree?

A co-creative practice initiated by artists Jo Fong and Sonia Hughes.

"*not just a series of shows, but a chance to build meaning-making and experience other forms of relationships between presenters, artists and community*" – Claudel Doucet, OFFTA

Promoters pack: bit.ly/NHTDpack

Photo by Murielle "TRULY" Bien-Aimé

I am from Reykjavik

By Sonia Hughes

"This is the best work I've seen in the festival (FTA) this year – her inquiry is deeply moving as it activates the essence of empowerment and resilience without didacticism. Fundamentally, it's a look at humanity and the stamp of one woman moving in the world." – Phillip Szporer for Dance Current

www.iamfromreykjavik.com





The Rest of Our Lives

Created and performed by Jo Fong and George Orange

OFFIE (Off Broadway) Performance Award winner 2025

UK Theatre Awards 2023 nominee for Achievement in Dance

"*Life is too short not to live like this*." – The Scotsman

More info: Therestofourlives

Photo by Catriona James