

NEIGHBOURHOODS

virtual RoRo journey 2021

MARCH 25

Signal Fires in the Marketplace

Signal Fires is a theatrical initiative from the Actor's Touring Company, arising out of COVID-19 and its impacts on live performance. It inspires people to come together, face to face where they still can, or online, to share stories. Three women playwrights have been commissioned to write letters of hope, sent by post around the world, inspired by James Baldwin's letter to his nephew. The three convenors of Neighbourhoods will read three letters of hope in a candlelit virtual town square. Bring a candle.

Letters by Maya Arad Yassur, Kimber Lee, Stephanie Street

Read by Matt Yoxall, Jazmin Badong Llana, Ella Parry-Davies

10:00 London | 18:00 Manila | 21:00 Canberra

The performance will be followed by a discussion.



APRIL 22

Bodies All Ears

Can one listen so intently that one hears not only through one's ears but one's whole body? Or inversely, can one's ears through performative synecdoche become one's body, thereby making listening not merely aural but an embodied experience? "Bodies All Ears" will try to respond to the above questions by opening up a discourse on the way in which bodies play the function of ears in blind theatre practice and, conversely, how under conditions of COVID-19 lockdown, in absence of any live physical interaction, for the blind theatre communities, ears were transformed into bodies. The Neighborhood within which the answer to these questions will be heard are the members of Kolkata based blind theatre company called Anyadesh. The point will be to sense how the members sustain their life and art practice transcending precarity by community building through various forms of mediated or live embodied acts of listening.

By Rajdeep Konar and Anyadesh (Shubhashish Gangopadhyay (Sighted facilitator for Anyadesh), Subhash Dey, Sumita Halder, Marjina Khatun, Shibaankar Prasad Verma, Raja Alam)

17:00 Kolkata

MAY 27

Conversations on Kraj

Kraj is slang for the neighbourhood; it means an area. Written down, it also means the end. The neighbourhood is inhabited by people who are your friends, people who are total strangers and people you will never meet. It is dynamic inter-generational, inter-social, inter-aesthetic place where it is common for a neighbour to ring your doorbell to borrow a cup of sugar or to ask you when are you planning to get married during six floors long elevator ride. Kraj brings a feeling of belonging and safety. Kraj also has a notion of alienation and danger. With the fall of Yugoslavia that was followed by several bloody and devastating wars, this dichotomy of safety and danger that comes from the neighbours and neighbourhood became visible more than ever.

From the perspective of a migrant with multiple geographical and emotional neighbourhoods, I'm interested in exploring how we understand the neighbourhood and neighbours. I'd like to start this conversation through questions, images, words, objects and sounds.

By Maja Milatovic-Ovradia

12:00 London

JUNE 24

unHOWsed and St Kilda: Performance and Place

This presentation draws on the visual performance work unHOWsed, in which eight older ex-homeless women share their experiences of homelessness - and the Melbourne seaside suburb, St Kilda, famous for its homelessness. I live in St Kilda. The work premiered in Theatre Works in St Kilda. In this presentation I interweave the performance work - including discussing the project's process and methodology with its focus on developing The Ensemble (the community), with a virtual recorded 'tour' of the St Kilda streets. For many of the women in the performance work, it was the first time they had spoken aloud about their experiences - and the first time performing. The resulting work was strong, dignified and inspiring and, as one review wrote: "It knocks down the invisible wall between its subjects and its audiences to see the humanity behind the ensemble's struggle" (Diana Hodggets - Pop Culture)

By Deborah Leiser-Moore

21:00 Melbourne

JUNE 24

Performing Power and Dissent

This panel will focus on forms and applications of state power in three different geographies, Hong Kong, Philippines and Turkey, as well as practices of public dissent. From containment measures applied by the law-making agents during COVID-19 in Hong Kong, to a Christian Church in the Philippines which opened its doors to over 700 Lumad people labeled as 'terrorists' by the State, and to Turkey, where in the aftermath of the Gezi Park protests, artists cope with daily life stress through collaboration, this panel will look into ways of how performance is used both as a form of control and agency of protest. The presentations will be followed by discussion.



By Işıl Eğrikavuk, Junesse d.R. Crisostomo, Wen Yu
11:00 Berlin | 17:00 Hong Kong & Manila

Sticky Spaces

A group of artists weave between online conversations and physical performance in relation to sites of a Melbourne neighbourhood, inhabiting spaces of sticky power dynamics and covert cultural inequity. Focused on Indian diasporic experiences in Australia, conversations around intercultural relations linger in choreographed and improvised precarity, awkwardness and humour, implicating the (online) audience in actions that require cooperative engagement, their performance unravels assumptions of the other, resists curatorial models forged in whiteness, unsettles labels and refuses to be relegated or rewarded as 'multicultural'.

Drawing upon multiple artforms, the artists articulate their longings to belong and incorporate aspects of their heritage in becoming hybrid, towards co-creating a shared present.

By Gretel Taylor, Joshinder Chaggar, Anindita Banerjee, Shaun McLeod, Parvyn Singh and Josh Bennett.

20:00 Melbourne



JULY 29

Micro-practices for a New Gentleness

'Micro-practices for a New Gentleness' is an arts-based facilitation instrument accessing the interconnections of propositional and embodied knowledge, created by Performative Diagrammatics Laboratory. It offers a method by which participants can structure hybrid, performative and narrative exchanges amongst each other, unraveling what happens in a good conversation along the way. It is currently a prototype. With this online workshop, we are inviting you to join the Laboratory as testers and co-creators. Previous test sites were the Vilém Flusser Archive in Berlin and the Index Fair in Mexico City.

By Adelheid Mers

August 13, 20:00 | August 14, 15:00 | August 15, 12:00 (all Central Daylight Time, UTC+5)

AUG 13-15

Building bridges between women, children and artists from Brazil, Argentina, and Philippines

How could we work together to create moments of intimacy in virtual space through video-performances, video documentation, audios, photographs, and video streaming? How can strategies of tales and storytelling help us in building up these connections? Can new technologies provide unexplored resources in order to make powerful narratives out of marginalized and minoritarian experiences that appeal to the public sphere? Are we able to create different procedures and narratives that can give an account of such diverse conditions amidst the global Covid Crisis? How can we take care of each other at a distance?



María Emilia Franchignoni, Melissa da Silva Ferreira, Ma Rosalía Zerrudo, Aloh Segarra, Ness Roqueles, Ralph Lumbao, Brandon Relucio, Gobierno Project, children, artists and women from Brazil, Argentina, and Philippines.

9:00 San Paulo | 20:00 Manila

SEPT 23

Neighbourly Performance and Critical Social Praxis

This event will offer culminating reflections on the virtual RoRo, exploring the geographical, conceptual, creative and ethico-political links made by the performance interventions. Returning to the initial provocation offered by PSI#26, the three stream co-convenors will facilitate a discussion about what care, or crises of care, might mean when we speak of neighbourhoods. As we close this part of the project, we also open a bridge into the Performance and Critical Social Praxis working group. We will invite contributors to use the working group as a venue for and way of sustaining future conversations through PSI.

10:00 London | 17:00 Manila | 20:00 Canberra

OCT 28

Register for all events at: <http://neighbourhoodsRoRo.eventbrite.com>

Recorded events available for 24 hours at: <https://vimeo.com/user135660443>

Coordinated by the PSI Performance and Critical Social Praxis working group: Jazmin Badong Llana, Ella Parry-Davies and Matt Yoxall

Attendance requires PSI membership. Pay what you can at: <https://www.psi-web.org/membership/>

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