

Strangers & Others

Event and Q&A

By Joanna Bailey

Strangers & Others

New immersive & participatory piece from H2 Dance looking at how we respond to, react to and judge strangers

Wednesday 18 October 6pm, 8pm
Colchester Arts Centre, Church St
Colchester CO1 1NF
Tickets £ Pay What You Can 01206 500900
colchesterartscentre.co.uk

Tuesday 24 October 3pm, 5pm & 7:30pm
Norwich Arts Centre, 51 St Benedicts Street,
Norwich NR2 4PG
Tickets £ Pay What You Can 01603 660352
norwichartscentre.co.uk

Thursday 26 October 3pm, 5pm & 7:45pm
Peterborough Key Theatre, Embankment Rd,
Peterborough, PE1 1EF
Tickets £11, £6 Concession 01733 207239
vivacity-peterborough.com

What are your thoughts on the shows and what do you hope to achieve in these performance

Strangers & Others looks at autonomy, socialisation, tolerance and freedom of choice. We invite the audience to spend 75 minutes on stage with each other immersed in lights and sound responding to our instructions. The work questions how we meet strangers and strangeness, and the audience are taken through a series of choreographed tasks. They have an intimate experience of meeting strangers, questioning their own decision making, biases, and if and how they respond to orders. The context of the theatre where the audience is the performance, frames the questions; who takes responsibility and when do actions have consequences?



What inspired the creation of "Strangers & Others"?

We were discussing the political situation around two years ago, the sudden flow of immigration and the buzzwords "integration" and "community". We asked ourselves: How do we come together, co-exist and create understanding between social groups and cultures? What does community and integration mean and on whose terms?

What are your roles in "Strangers & Others"? What do you find most gratifying about your work?

Our roles in the work are both the choreographers and facilitators of the work. We read out our choreographic script, which involves simple physical instructions and the choreography comes through the audience reacting and responding. Giving them permission to look, touch, assume and judge, the audience choose how to respond, placing themselves into lines, groups and pairs as if they are rehearsing a performance that will never take place. The work will be different each time depending on the audience's responses and the number of people taking part. The gratifying and most nerve racking thing is the unknown and not being on stage, but to give over the responsibility to the audience. There is always a chance they won't respond and/or disobey.