

Forest Fringe began in 2007, with one of those moments when an opportunity comes up, and you say yes.

Like John Lennon meeting Yoko Ono for the first time, we lead with Yes. We said yes to a lot that year. We said yes to the invitation to make something interesting happen in an old church in the centre of a city in the middle of the world's biggest arts festival. We said yes to an experimental American opera, to a man's story about life in prison, to stand-up comedians and yoga classes and all night dance parties. We were young and we liked saying yes and we kept doing so as often as we could. As we got a bit older, we realised that we could not say yes to everything. We formed relationships with companies and artists which meant being selective, protective, loyal. But saying yes somehow still remained at the heart of what we did. We turned a dark basement into a clean white laboratory, built rooms inside rooms, we hosted shows in video stores, bookshops and cinemas. We were shaped by this energy, by these moments of doing, by these acts of gathering. They became our way of weathering difficult times; unsustainable acts of love and resistance that we never wanted to end.

This year we celebrated our 10th year at the Edinburgh Festival and after ten festivals, we decided it was time to say a temporary no to the Edinburgh Festival — a no shaped pause. Not forever but for now.

This has been an unusually turbulent year and amidst such turmoil we want to think back to the things that have guided us in the past and ask how they might shore us against an uncertain future. We want to gather the people who have helped us and who we hope we have helped in turn, to ask what on earth we do now. To reshape Forest Fringe in anticipation of another 10 years. To find new things to say yes to, and new ways in which to say it.

This event is one way for us to look back on the last decade, and forward to what might come next. It is a moment to think about some of the things that are important to us with people we love and admire. To think about strategies for survival and gestures of resistance. We hope it will be interesting. And unexpected. And fun. Thanks for coming and being a part of it.

forestfringe.co.uk
[@forestfringe](https://twitter.com/forestfringe)

Forest Fringe at Somerset House



A three day gathering on
memory, survival and
resistance

London
9–11
December
2016

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER

Opening Night Double Bill:

Simone Kenyon & Neil Callaghan and Augusto Corrieri

Doors at 7pm

A double-bill of short works about collision, collapse, memory, history and survival.

Augusto Corrieri:

In Place of a Show (A Lecture)

During heavy WW2 bombings, a baroque opera house in Munich was meticulously dismantled, and the parts of its ornate interior hidden for safety outside the city. Years later those same parts were perfectly reassembled on site, creating the illusion of a theatre untouched by historical destruction.

In Place of a Show is one of a series of lecture-works exploring theatre buildings around the world. The project culminated this year with the publication of a book, *In Place of a Show: what happens inside theatres when nothing is happening* (Bloomsbury Methuen Drama).

Simone Kenyon & Neil Callaghan:

Someone Something Someone

The world is in a constant state of flux. Two bodies engage in a delicate physical activity, striving to become something other than a body: material, force, a single organism. Colliding, pushing, pressing, mingling, uniting. A sculptural and minimal performance that entices the audience into the details of micro-movement.

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

Chapter 1 – Memory

12pm–3pm

How do we remember performance and who does the remembering? We have asked artists, archivists, critics and academics to think about the memories they have of performance and the way in which they remember. Performances and conversations featuring:

Alan Read *professor of theatre, Kings College London*

Arike Oke *archivist, Rambert Dance Company*

Diana Damian *critic and academic*

Season Butler *artist and writer*

Simon Bowes *writer and performer*

Chapter 2 – Europe

3pm–6pm

Europe. Beautiful Europe. Fractured and fracturing, history spilling out of every crack. In this year of all years, we want to take some time to think about Europe, about our place within it – how it is changing and what if anything we can do about it. Performances and conversations featuring:

Andy Field *artist and co-director of Forest Fringe*

Chris Thorpe *writer and performer*

Deborah Pearson *artist and co-director of Forest Fringe*

Gigi Argyropoulou *researcher, artist and curator*

Ira Brand *artist and co-director of Forest Fringe*

Forest Fringe at Somerset House

Curated by Andy Field, Deborah Pearson and Ira Brand. Producing support from Beckie Darlington.

Production management: Helen Mugridge

Installation design: Gary Campbell

Print design: Will Brady

Photographer in residence: Jemima Yong

Volunteer Support: Benedikt Päßgen, Ema Boswood, Hannah Randall, James McColl, Maria Moore,

Molly Scarborough and Roxanne Carney

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

Chapter 3 – Resistance

12pm–3pm

In a moment of growing crisis it feels to important to us to try and think about resistance. About gestures of resistance and spaces of resistance. About the relationships that currently exist between art and activism, and how to build new ones. The event will include talks, conversations and installations involving:

Farah Saleh *dancer and choreographer*

Hamja Ahsen *artist and curator*

Liberate Tate

Lisa Skuret *artist and writer*

Rima Najdi *performance artist*

Chapter 4 – Survival

3pm–6pm

As 2016 finally dies with a whimper, we want to take this opportunity to think about survival. Survival as artists. Survival under capitalism. About self-care and adaptation. About longevity. There will be talks, conversation and music, involving:

Alex Swift *director and theatre maker*

Douglas Murphy *author of 'Last Futures: Nature, Technology, and the End of Architecture'*

Liz Aggiss *live artists, dancer and choreographer*

Rhiannon Armstrong *artist*

Verity Standen *composer*

ALL WEEKEND

Jemima Yong

Photographer and performance maker Jemima Yong presents fragments from her residencies with Forest Fringe in 2013 and 2016.

Action Hero X They Are Here

Two practices, Action Hero (Gemma Paintin & James Stenhouse) and They Are Here (Helen Walker & Harun Morrison) are brought together for the first time to publicly explore the nature of collaboration.

All The Arguments We've Ever Had

A video installation charting 10 years of arguments conducted via email. An exploration of the language of frustration, conciliation, negotiation and love.

Farah Saleh: Cells of Illegal Education

Cells of Illegal Education (C.I.E) is a video dance installation that revisits gestures of civil disobedience carried out during the First Intifada in Occupied Palestine. More specifically it reenacts, transforms and deforms gestures exercised by Birzeit University students between 1988 and 1992 while trying to continue their education process at a time when schools and universities were closed by Israeli military rule and students and teachers who refused to abide were labeled "Cells of Illegal Education". Presented as part of our chapter on Resistance, but available to experience all weekend.

Ephemera

An installation of the small pieces that remain of Forest Fringe events from across the last decade, loaned by the artists to whom they belong. A kind of map of who we are, what we have done and the way we have chosen to do it.

With thanks to: Petra Schtirba and Marie McPartlin at Somerset House Studios, Stuart Heyes and Louise Blackwell at Fuel, and all the Forest Fringe artists who have contributed to the event. This event was made possible with support from Arts Council England, Creative Scotland and Jerwood Charitable Foundation.



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