

Unfamiliar at Home

10th - 25th November, 2020

Written and performed live on Zoom by **Victor Esses** and **Yorgos Petrou**

**What is a family? Where does it come from?
Can we make our own?**

Victor and Yorgos recently made some big plans, and they don't know if they are ready for them.

One is to create a performance together, the other is to have a baby...

An adaptation of their piece *Unfamiliar, Unfamiliar at Home* is performed in the artists' home, on Zoom. This tender autobiographical performance combines text, movement and found objects to explore family, parenthood and being queer today.

What do we need to do to live the life we always wanted?

Written and performed by:
Victor Esses and Yorgos Petrou

Outside Eye: Mikhail Karikis
Dramaturg: Lou Cope
Movement: Rhiannon Faith

Producer: Louisa Borg-Costanzi Potts
Production Manager: Matthew Russell
Production Assistant: Angélica Fajardo

Audio Description: Beth House
Captioning: Sofi Nowell
Access coordination: Taking Flight
www.takingflighttheatre.org.uk

Unfamiliar at Home is being presented with Artsdepot, Cambridge Junction, Chapter, Shout Festival, The Lowry and The Place, Bedford

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And of course, to the whole *Unfamiliar* team.



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Victor Esses is a theatre and performance maker and a live artist. He is interested in participation, autobiographical material, storytelling and multimedia as ways to investigate belonging, human connection, and overcoming. He is Associate Artist to CASA Festival. Performance/Maker credits include *Where to Belong* (Rich Mix, Summerhall, UK tour, shortlisted for Emerge Performance Prize and Sit Up Awards), *Sound of Us* (Vilnius, Tallin Larp Festival, Theatre Deli), *Dis Place* (CPT, Arts Admin, Latitude Festival) and *Codependently Yours* (Arcola Theatre, VFD, Albany, ACE supported). Directing includes: *Venus Flytrap* (Theatre503, performed by Jonny Woo), *Tapped Out!* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *The Assault* (Old Red Lion Theatre) and *The Last Days of Gilda* (Arcola Theatre, shortlisted for Brazil Focus Award). Performing includes: *Tunguska Event – History Marches on a Table* (Whitechapel Gallery), *Trojan Horse*, *Rainbow Flag* (film by artist Ian Giles) and *Faraway, So Close* (Old Fire Station).

Yorgos Petrou (b.1981) is a visual artist. He works with photography, sculpture, moving image and performance. His practice seeks to examine and analyse the human body culturally, physically, anatomically, and emotionally and how it relates to the land; how it can become a site of individuality, hybridisation, sacrifice, heroism, trauma, and dichotomy. Recent exhibitions include: *I take of places*, Kupfer Project Space, London, (*This precious stone set in the silver sea*, Copperfield London, UK (both 2020); *Occupy and Echo (a stage)*, Reading Room, Melbourne, Australia (2019); *A Real Job is to Make Something*, AIR, London, *A Million Love Songs*, Korai Project Space, Cyprus (both 2018). Other shows include *Bloomberg New Contemporaries* ICA, London; *Royal Society Summer Exhibition* at Southbank Centre; *Identalterity*, 5th Biennale of Thessaloniki; *Freud and Eros*, Freud Museum London; *Shorts at Oxford*, Modern Art Oxford; *Jonny*, Insitu Space for Contemporary Art Berlin; *Wolstenholme Creative Space*, Independents Liverpool Biennial; *Motherless Beautiful*, British Museum London; *Planètes*, Cultural Capital of Europe Pafos; *Pivo Research*, Pivo São Paulo.

Mikhail Karikis is an artist with an established international profile, working in film, sound and performance, and exhibiting in leading museums, festivals and biennials worldwide. He has a background in architecture and music, and earlier in his career he released contemporary music albums and performed with industry leading names in venues such as Barbican and Royal Opera House Covent Garden. In the past fifteen years, he has been developing art projects through collaborations with diverse communities that have included retired and unemployed people, and more recently, with children, teenagers, young adults, people with disabilities and their carers. His works explore ecology and economic legacies, labour histories, social justice and narratives of collective resilience, dignity and care.

Karikis has exhibited in over three hundred exhibitions worldwide. Highlights in 2019-2020 include solo shows *Ferocious Love*, TATE Liverpool, UK; *For Many Voices*, MIMA, UK; *No Ordinary Protest*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK; *Mikhail Karikis*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, JP and *Children of Unquiet*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino, IT. Karikis's work has featured in international festivals including

54th Venice Biennale, IT (2011); 19th Sydney Biennale, AU (2014); MediaCity Seoul, KR, (2015); Kochi-Muziris Biennale, IN, (2016); European Capital of Culture, Aarhus, DK (2017) and Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art, LV, (2020).

Rhiannon Faith is an Associate Artist at Harlow Playhouse. Credits include: *Smack That (a conversation)* (The Barbican) Sex Clinics Residency with Bryony Kimmings (Channel 4 Documentaries), VEVO live music events (VEVO), *Soror* (Springhead Film Company) *The Red Shoes*, *Grease*, *Diva* (Secret Cinema) Her new work *DROWNTOWN* will premier next year. It has been a privilege working with Victor and Yorgos learning about the personal and societal challenges they face as two men contemplating parenthood together.

Lou Cope is a UK-based dance & theatre dramaturg who has worked across the UK, Europe and in the Middle East. She is the founder of CoAd - The Centre of Applied Dramaturgy (www.thecoad.org).

Recent/current collaborations include: Garry Stewart & Australian Dance Theatre, Aakash Odedra, Gary Clarke, Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet; Rhiannon Faith, Stoppag Dance. Lou also offers Practice Dramaturgy – and is currently working with Roisín Stack, Daniela Cardim and Simone Mousset, has a podcast called Downtime, and dramaturgs organisations too. Past collaborations include: Phoenix Dance Theatre; Scottish Dance Theatre; les ballets c de la b; Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui & Damien Jalet.

Louisa Borg-Costanzi Potts is an experienced producer, working predominantly in cross-arts, interdisciplinary and socially engaged practice. She graduated with a BA in Drama and Performance in 2008 and progressed onto a MA in Advanced Theatre Practice at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Louisa started her career as a participatory artist, and has previously worked with organisations such as the Barbican Centre, Wookey Works and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. She is currently the Programme Producer for Fevered Sleep. Louisa is a graduate of the Clore Short Course, is an active volunteer for Micro Rainbow, and joined the board of Entelechy Arts in 2017.

Matt Russell has been working the UK theatre industry for 12 years. Notable recent work as production sound engineer include *The Seagull* (Jamie Lloyd / ATG Productions) / *Ghost Stories* - UK Tour (Smith & Brandt Theatricals) / *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Jamie Lloyd / ATG Productions - Olivier Award nominated for Sound) / *Betrayal* (Jamie Lloyd / ATG Productions) / *Pinter @ Pinter Season* (Jamie Lloyd / ATG Productions) / *Fleabag* (Fiery Angel) / *King Lear* (Chichester Festival Theatre) / Queen Anne (RSC).

Angélica Fajardo is an art historian, artist and independent curator. All her work experience is related to the art field, where she has gained significant proficiency in writing on, researching, planning and delivering cultural projects in Bogotá and in London. Her employment history spans across art galleries, foundations and cultural project spaces, where she has been in charge of managing all practical and logistical aspects related to exhibition production.