

QUARANTINE



No such thing

[concept-touring]

When was the last time you
had a conversation with a
stranger?

qtine.com/work/no-such-thing/

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About

History

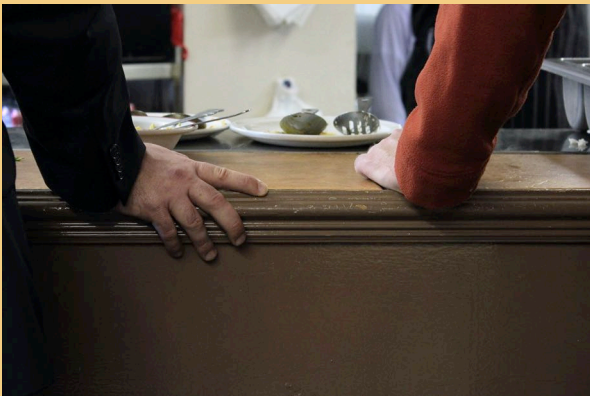
Every month for the past 10 years we've sat at a table in Kabana café, Manchester, for **No Such Thing**. We say that our work is a kind of conversation with strangers – **No Such Thing** is the most literal example.

No Such Thing is a micro event, a meal shared by two people over 30 minutes or so. People book a free lunch in exchange for a conversation with a member of Quarantine or selected 'hosts'. That's it.

A changing menu of conversation starters subtly guides the conversation, but it can go anywhere. Like everyday conversations, they are funny, odd, interesting, controversial, informative, dull, life changing. It's confidential, we don't record it – and like all Quarantine's work you are your own editor and censor, sharing only what you wish to.

Menu themes have included Trees, Loneliness, Falling, Waiting, School, Being Social and many more...

No Such Thing is a piece of theatre and not. We try to make sure that the lunch guest isn't performed at or for - we hope they'll be performed with.



Future

With the arrival of Covid in our lives in 2020, we shifted **No Such Thing** online, widening the opportunity for people to participate remotely. In lockdown it was a welcome intimate Covid-safe conversation and its reason for being was clear when chance encounters had been curtailed. As our world started opening up and we became very used to meeting online, it was a little less appealing - very far from its roots in Kabana - but going back to "how we were" didn't quite fit either...

We experimented with a version of **No Such Thing** in late 2021 collaborating with a small festival in Bristol: we worked together to find the topic and timetable the encounters; they provided the context and booked the lunch guests. Refining this was an obvious next step.

We tested this 'concept-touring' version with Lancaster Arts, UK, in May 2023 and are now looking for further opportunities to share this work. This 'concept-touring' version means 'training' local artists to deliver the project without the need for Quarantine to travel.

“Such a thought-provoking event and so enjoyable, completely altering my day in the most fundamental but subtle way possible. This doesn't exist in many places.”

Previous participant

Touring Information

What happens?

Initial conversation: share the idea with the partner, discuss the process, agree fee and timeline, contract arrangements, map project timeline together

Practical arrangements: partner to find and confirm venue (can be in liaison with Quarantine); partner to book/confirm hosts, discuss communications, booking process and all practical arrangements

Exchange with partner & hosts: Renny O'Shea, Quarantine's Co-Artistic Director, to talk through history, context, how it has worked in the past, share guidance which will enable hosts to co-develop the menu and deliver No Such Thing locally. Use existing menus to practice/ 'rehearse'. Finalise menus.

Check-in: (in the week before) a chance for any final questions.

Event happens.

Review: a conversation ideally with hosts and partner to review how it went.

Partners responsibilities

Contract and cover the fees to artist/ hosts and any other personnel required in advance and on the day.

Make **arrangements** and cover the costs associated with the venue, including food.

Co-develop the **menu** in collaboration with the hosts and Quarantine.

Print and laminate menus.

Publicise the project to generate interest (e.g. design & print, digital assets, and delivery of comms plan).

Organise booking members of the public to take part in the event (e.g. via Eventbrite).

'Front of House' **management on the day.**

Quarantine can provide

- Images of past events.
- Suggested copy (for print, website, socials etc).
- Sample press release.
- Design template for printed/digital assets.
- Template Design for menu.

To discuss No such thing (concept-touring) further, please contact Renny O'Shea, Co-Artistic Director via renny@qtine.com

Images: Kate Daley @katedaleyworks