

QUARANTINE



No such thing

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

About

No such thing is a framework for conversations between people who have never met before: an ephemeral encounter between two strangers, shaped, experienced, and remembered by those two people alone.

Quarantine hosts the conversations: we issue the invitation and write a menu of questions and topics that subtly guide the 30-minute conversations, but we don't 'perform' for our lunch companions. Like any conversation, where it goes is a complex act of cooperation and negotiation between the two people involved. Like everyday conversations, the experience can be funny, odd, interesting, controversial, informative, dull, and life-changing...

The menu always features a 'Today's special' related to that day's news. Recent themes have included: Waiting; Being Social; School; False starts; Trees; Loneliness; Dancing and many more.

There are no spectators, no agenda and no record made. Each event is unique and unrepeatable. People meet, talk, eat, and then carry on with their day. That's it.

History & Future

Quarantine has been inviting people to share lunch and a chat with us since 2012.

No such thing took place in Kabana curry cafe in Manchester city centre, once a month for 10 years, and in that time we've had hundreds of conversations. During lockdown, we took **No such thing** online and people from all over the world took part; but we missed sitting across a table and sharing food and space with other people.

We want to keep meeting strangers and keep finding new environments, inside and outside, where this project might take place. This could be in other cafes, as a picnic in a park or other public contexts.

"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?

In partnership with Quarantine, you identify a location and the food offer, we'll advise on practical arrangements.

You arrange several artist-hosts to have conversations with members of the public (a mix of advance booking and walk-ups). This can be between 2 and 10 hosts per event, and each host can have up to 4 conversations.

The event is advertised and promoted in partnership with Quarantine, and most people will book in advance. They turn up, and are met, they select their food and then meet their host. They choose from a menu of conversation topics, that includes Starters, Mains and Afters plus a Today's Special option.

A conversation happens whilst they eat together. It isn't recorded or documented.

"In a world that can feel quite divided and isolated, having people come together for moments of connection through conversation was

Logistical Information

Location - a space where people can sit and eat - indoors or outdoors, tables and chairs or picnic blankets or whatever is suitable. If outdoors, ideally with a wet weather option (e.g. marquee).

Access - we would like the venue/location to be as accessible as possible, or at least made temporarily accessible.

Food offer - needs quick service! Could be part of the venue offer if a café. If outdoors, we can collaborate on picnic food provision. Suitable for key dietary requirements. (e.g. V, Ve, GF, NF etc).

Event staff - we would ask you to provide at least one member of staff to sign-post members of the public to the event.

Booking arrangements - advance booking via Eventbrite can work - to be discussed

Marketing/communications - we provide suggested copy, images and sample press release, as well as design templates for digital and printed promotional materials.

To discuss No such thing further, please contact kate@qtine.com