

## **Josué Amador - A Phone Call**

This piece is based on a poem by Palestinian poet and author Mahmoud Darwish. The text is presented as a dialog between two people. To realize the piece, one or more performers should enact the dialog in a phone call by reading aloud the text corresponding to one of the characters (A or B).

To read the text, performers can display it on their phones and activate speaker mode or use headphones while reading and calling simultaneously. Printing the text on paper and reading from it is also possible, though this method should be avoided if possible.

The piece can be performed both in open or closed spaces.

A Phone Call can be performed by any number of people according to the variations below:

1. One performer: the performer chooses one of the characters (A or B) and pretends to have a phone call while reading aloud only the chosen part. The part of the other character should be read in silence.
2. Two performers: each performer represents one of the characters and performs the dialogue in a phone call. They may choose to be near each other or at a distance.
3. Several pairs: pairs are formed, and each pair performs the piece as described above.
4. A large group: each performer chooses one character (A or B) and pretends to have a phone call, while reading only their chosen part aloud. The part of the other character should be read in silence.

## **Reports:**

### **Frans:**

When we performed, people were clearing up the market. A strange contrast arose between the theatrical (almost surrealistic) theme of the dialogue and this artisanal setting. An unexpected chemistry. We had to call each other back a few times because of technical issues, which fit perfectly with this strange conversation. Steef was walking in Museumstraat/Augustijnerkamp. Walking through the noisy market gave our conversation a background sound with added value.

### **Steef:**

We performed this piece at the end of the day. The streets were already emptying out. We each went a different way and decided to call each other in a few minutes. As the call started I could hear the sounds of the market over the phone, as I was walking through a relatively quiet street.

We started the conversation and as we progressed I tried to imagine the world that would fit with this dialogue. The sound over the phone could be imagined as something more distant. A different place to the market, or maybe another market, in another town. Maybe not a real place at all. The dialogue itself was very strange. It was almost like a dream.

We started with a first attempt, in which we had some difficulties, but it didn't really matter. It was like static on the line. We tried again, this time more successful. The conversation felt close and distant at the same time. We were speaking parts. Not our own words. The text was strangely personal but also very absurd, poetic and dreamlike. It was strange to speak these lines over the phone. Someone walking behind you would not understand what was going on. Normally the purpose of a phone call is to exchange information. In this performance the phone call was the space in which the poem existed.