

CONTAGION: The Film

Name of the film: *People, Performance, Presence and Perspectives*

Duration of the film: 30mins

*In September-October 2020, Pickle Factory presented **CONTAGION: Performance, Space, Community** - a series of 8 curated conversations and presentations addressing the live performance experience as an art and part of the human act of assembly. The series investigated gathering spaces as a societal need, the uniqueness of the live performance experience, and possible ways forward for artists, audiences and venues to build and celebrate strong and empathetic communities. Taking forward the various perspectives and provocations that came up during these conversations, Pickle Factory has made a film focusing on some larger themes around presence, the body, crowds, space and community - all the threads that resonated through the series. The film releases online on Saturday, 20 February 2021 at 6.30pm, and will subsequently be available on the Pickle Factory & Goethe Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata YouTube channels.*

The screening will be preceded by a short discussion amongst the curators where they introduce the film and briefly discuss the various provocations and themes explored within it.

The discussion along with the screening of the film will be livestreamed on the Facebook pages of both the Pickle Factory and Goethe Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata at 6:30 pm on Saturday, 20 February, 2021. Registration is free and all are welcome to attend.

Curators

Vikram Iyengar is an arts leader and connector based in Calcutta, India. He works internationally as a dancer-choreographer-director, curator-presenter, and arts researcher-writer. He founded the Pickle Factory Dance Foundation responding to the lack of spaces and infrastructure in India to support, nurture and develop dance and movement work, artists and audiences. The Pickle Factory is one such hub that also believes in the use of repurposed heritage spaces for arts. Their big dream is to move to one soon as a permanent venue.

Sharvari Sastry is currently working on a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Chicago. She has been working as a theatre administrator and researcher in Mumbai since 2009. She has worked in an administrative and editorial capacity with Theatre Professionals Pvt. Ltd., Prithvi Theatre, India Theatre Forum and Junoon.

Christophe Knoch, after studying law, worked for different institutions in the fields of opera and theatre. He currently drives the public discussion on how to repurpose public spaces in Berlin. In his last project he combined his commitment to artistic and urban development in suggesting the creation of a forest in Berlin's closed airport Tempelhof.