

WHO ARE PHOSPHOROS THEATRE?

Phosphoros Theatre is a theatre company and charity based in London.

We make theatre productions and create drama projects with and for refugees and asylum seekers. We think it's important for people with lived experience to be able to have their voices listened to and their ideas respected and celebrated. We hope the people involved in our work feel in control of the stories and narratives they create.

'But everything has an ending' was made last year in the first lockdown by the **actors** at **Phosphoros Theatre Company**. Usually we put on **plays** in a **theatre** for **audiences**.

Emirjon is from **Albania**
Syed is from **Afghanistan**
Goitom and **Tewodros** (Teddy) are from **Eritrea**.
Mohamed is from **Sudan**.

They recorded themselves acting to share what people like them felt about COVID-19, because no one had asked them. Each video was written and performed at home in lockdown.



CREATIVE TEAM

Written by Dawn Harrison and members of the company
Directed by Dawn Harrison, Esther Dix, Kate Duffy-Syedi
and Pavlos Christodoulou
Performed by Emirjon Hoxhaj, Syed Haleem Najibi,
Tewodros Aregawe, Goitom Fesshaye and Mohamed
Abdu Fahmi.

USING THE RESOURCES

We have made this for groups or individuals to explore the messages
and ideas in the videos.
We have made suggestions for creative activities that you could do on
your own, or with other people, to make your own work.
This might explore your feelings from the last year during the pandemic.
Or it might just be a way to try out different creative ideas.

SYED

Syed talks about dreaming of home and his family while he cleans his shoes. He describes what it is like in Afghanistan. He is worried about COVID and that his family are not being careful enough and they might get the virus. He talks about prayer, faith and how important religion is but he worries that his dad will go to mosque even when it's dangerous.

Thinking of home

Syed talks about home. Think about what home means to you, this could be your home in the UK, the place you were born, or anywhere else that feels like home.

Write a list of words of all the smells of your home.

Write a list of words of all the colours that make you think of home.

Write another list of all the sounds of home.

Write a list of all the people who feel like home to you.

Write another list of all the tastes and the foods that make you think of home.

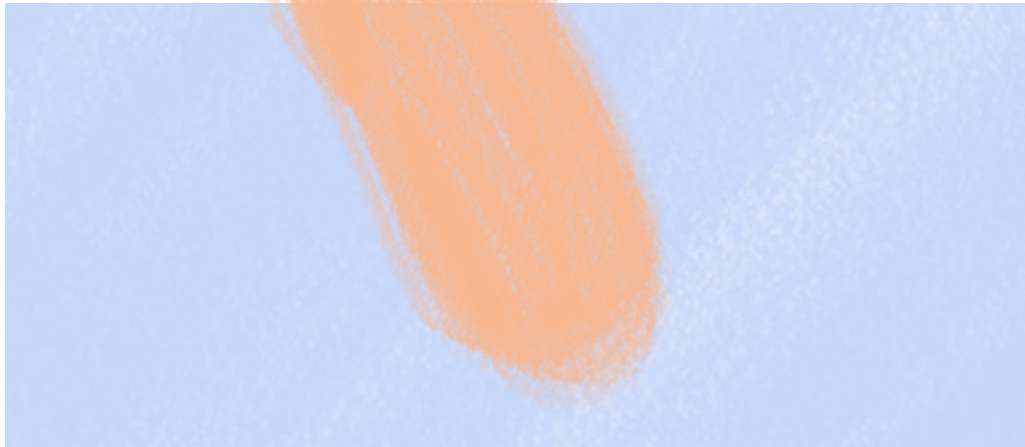
Use these lists to write a poem like this:

When I think of home, I smell the flowers on the gate
And see the dusty blue sky, stretching on forever
When I think of home, I can taste my mother's cooking
The warmth in the air while she stirs her spicy soup

MOHAMED

Mohamed describes his room, his shelter, where he is in lockdown. He is new to the UK, living in shared accommodation. He worries about the staff who look after him, he doesn't want them to get sick. He remembers what home is like in Sudan: the river, the sky, the sounds, the people. He knows this lockdown will end, he is hopeful. At the end of the video, he says:

'I will always remember. I will never forget.'



Imagine you are 50 years old. Write a letter to your child, or grandchild, telling them what you will 'always remember' about the pandemic, and what you will 'never forget'? What lessons have you learnt? What has been the strangest change?

Lessons from the pandemic:

We have lived through a global pandemic and people have had lots of different experiences that they will never forget. Mohamed talks about the things he will always remember in the future.

TEDDY

Tewodros (Teddy) is on the phone to his friend and talks about the fact he is helping his friend Benjamin, who doesn't have any food or anywhere to live. He is asking all his friends to give something to help. The government will not help Benjamin because he has no papers and the food banks are closed. As he speaks, he gets more texts from friends who are losing their jobs and their homes. He keeps packing food and hopes he will have enough.

**In this video, Teddy is pretending that the camera is a phone, and he is speaking to a friend who is not really there.
He is acting and telling a story using his face, his voice and his body.**

Acts of kindness:

Teddy is helping his friends who are in trouble which shows how important it is to be kind, especially during the pandemic.
Talk to a friend about small acts of kindness – who helped you in the pandemic?
Did you help anyone?
How did other people help each other?

In the news, we usually only hear about bad things happening. Research one story of kindness in the pandemic that makes you smile. Now pretend you are a news presenter on the TV and present the story to your class or record it on your phone and post it on social media so that other people can learn about good news today.

When you are acting, think about how you can change your voice and your body to be like a news presenter.

Look at this Instagram account for ideas: [@somegoodnews](#), [YouTube channel](#) or [Twitter account](#) for ideas

GOITOM

Goitom has taken his friend's bike helmet into his bedroom to keep him from going to work. He is worried that he will get infected while he delivers food. He has to work to send money home for Easter and to pay his brother's rent but Goitom tells him that everyone needs to stay home to stay safe. They are both worried about the future. Goitom offers him money because he is scared and he wants to look after him.

With a partner, explain the last argument you have and act out the conversation. You play the role of your friend. See if you can come to an agreement that works for both characters

or

If you are working on your own, use the template on the right

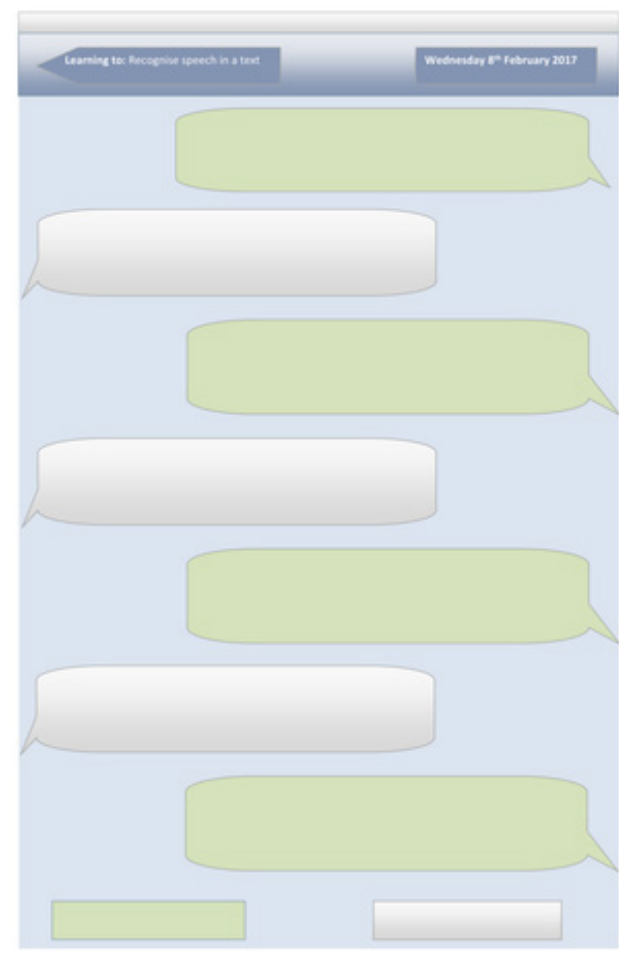


Write out the conversation you wish you had the last time you argued with a friend.

How would you resolve this?

Tough choices:

In the pandemic, the rules were hard to follow and some people did things differently which could lead to arguments. Goitom and his friend are arguing about how to stay safe because one of them has to go to work.



EMIRJON

Emirjon speaks about the dangers of being home in Albania, he was not allowed to go outside when he was a boy because it was dangerous. He talks about 'old laws' and how scary it was to be a young boy, trapped inside. Lockdown here is worse because he can't see the enemy.

Emirjon speaks in a poem/rap which is a creative way of writing and performing. Think about what makes it different. Do you like this style? Is there a traditional way of writing poems/telling stories in your culture?

Write a list of important days in your life e.g. your 10th birthday because you met your best friend. Using this list, create a poem. You can also use the traditional way of telling stories from your culture if you want to.

Here is a short example, that is written in the Japanese style of a Haiku:

On the first Spring day
With leaves falling to the ground
The news said, stay inside

I saw Snow falling
In Winter in the UK
A soft crunch underneath

When Summer arrives I
take the train across country
To see friends again

Now choose a song or some music to go with your writing.

Read it aloud with the music. How does it change if you change the music?





MORE FROM PHOSPHOROS THEATRE

If you're interested to see more of our work you can go to
our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)

If you're interested in joining any of our **activities** you can send an email to
join@phosphorostheatre.com or message us on **WORK NUMBER**

