

In this moment.

Norman Yeung

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PRODUCTION HISTORY

In this moment. premiered at Theatre Local in Toronto, for the Nuit Blanche festival, on September 29, 2012 with the following performer and director:

HOST: Cara Gee
Director: Norman Yeung

In this moment. was presented by fu-GEN Theatre Company at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto, for World Theatre Day, on March 27, 2014 with the following performer and director:

HOST: Jeff Ho
Director: David Yee

Revisions to this text were made in 2023.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The tone can be made by anything that makes a sound.

The light can be made by anything that makes light.

The clementine does not have to be a clementine – it can be an orange. A tangerine. Etcetera.

The word “clementine” can be changed to “orange.” “Tangerine.” Etcetera.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I'm perpetually trying to declutter my life. Amidst the cacophony of too many texts and emails and learning to be a more mature and responsible adult and the exhausting flux in my personal and professional life... I want to simplify. I'm also perennially living in a different space and time, reminiscing about the past, dreaming about the future, discontented by the present. I want to cut out extraneous noise and discern what really matters, what's important in the moment. Sometimes, while walking along a bustling downtown street at 5:05PM, or passing busy bars at midnight, I find myself thinking about nothing. All I am doing is observing the sights, sounds, and sensations. I'm not in my head. I'm living in the moment. It's during these moments – fleeting as they are – that I find focus and clarity. And calm. I want to access these moments more, and I want the audience to experience this happy nothingness along with me. Sometimes, in spite of our minds frantically racing about trying to figure out our relationships and careers and commitments, all that really matters is that the wind is chilling our nose... the bakery is emitting deliciousness... the busker's guitar sounds lovely...

I'd like the audience to transcend the noise with me. We all could use some peace, if only for a moment.

In this moment. seeks clarity and communion between performer and spectator, rejoicing in the shared space and time, and is best served with intimacy. I find that sometimes the most intense moments of focus, the clearest of moments, happen during live performance, which is the most ephemeral mode of art. By its very premise, *In this moment.* celebrates ephemerality.

– Norman Yeung, January 2023

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[HOST sits cross-legged on the floor, watching, welcoming. Makes eye contact with each spectator. Sustained silence.]

In this moment

you watch me
watching
you

I see you
seeing me

In this moment
you see a light [lights a match]
in the next moment I will do something
and you will watch

[Drops the flame and stamps it.]

In this moment
you see a light *[lights a match]*

You wonder what I will do next
what will happen next
what is the next moment
but don't worry
the next moment
is

now

[Drops the flame and stamps it.]

In this moment
you are not thinking

of how lonely you are
you are alone
you have no one
you want some one
but

who

and

how?

If only
you liked your face more
you were tall enough or the right amount of small
you made enough money to impress
or at least stop being afraid
If only
you knew what you wanted
you let go and move on
you loved yourself more

If only you could change

you

wouldn't

be

alone

Breathe.

You are not alone
You are here with me now

[Picks up a clementine and peels.]

This is a clementine.

In this moment
you are not thinking

of her beside you
of you beside him
of them fitting just so
beside
you

You expected to grow old together
until the next day
the next season
until you die
you were supposed to be
beside each other.

You are not thinking
of
when you two met
when you two fucked
when you met their family
when you felt the first doubt
when you wanted to break up
and promised yourself
the next time we flare up
we're gonna break up
but didn't
where do we go
when do we end
should it end
do we stay together
for the sake of we live together
for the sake of the kids
for the sake of I'm scared
I'm embarrassed
I'm a failure
I don't have money
I don't know what I'm doing
so let's stay together
and try harder
to be
happy

Breathe.

You want to be alone

The sooner you walk away
The sooner you begin to heal

My thumb is inside this clementine.

I

am

peeling

this

clementine

In this moment
you are not thinking

of when you met after it ended
you speak to each other
not like partners speak
not like lovers speak
but
like friends speak
or strangers

or

[Silence.]

You've changed.

But.

That doesn't matter.
Nothing matters all that matters
in this moment
is I am doing this

*[Inhales the clementine scent from hands.
Eats a wedge of clementine.
Takes the hand of a spectator, places the clementine, encourages to eat a wedge and pass it along
to other spectators.]*

Let's share. *[or adlib]*

If you are eating the clementine, you are eating the clementine.
If you are not eating the clementine, you are not eating the clementine.

Don't worry

about what could have been
what will be
what has not happened

because all that is happening
right now

all that matters
is

in this moment
we are here
together

End.