

**In this moment.**

*Norman Yeung*

**In this moment.**

by  
Norman Yeung

# **In this moment.**

by  
Norman Yeung

---

## **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

## **In this moment.**

by  
Norman Yeung

*[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 hear my voice                      in the next moment  
you will hear                      *[hits a tone]*

In this moment  
you hear my voice                      in the next moment  
you will hear                      *[silence]*

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.**