

Chrys Papaioannou & Justin Philpott

Caught Chatting: A facilitated discussion about how we dance CI together

Who do I choose to dance with, and why? (How) do I intervene if I see someone grabbing their partner? Do I want to leave my sexual energy out of the dance? Am I dancing my gender, race or disability?

Inspired by Keith Hennessy's open interrogations in his 2018 zine *Questioning Contact*, and the dialogic exchange between Nancy Stark Smith and David Koteen, in the *Contact Quarterly* publication *Caught Falling* (2008), this session invites all contacters, students and teachers, to deepen our knowledge of the form through a facilitated discussion circle. Discussions about what contact 'is' or what constitutes 'skill', debates on how to create community guidelines, or conversations around consent, often take place outside CI classes and jams. Whilst closing circles offer a space for the expression of gratitude and communion, they leave little room for expressions of discomfort or for more open-ended enquiries. Caught Chatting aims to return to the experimental and open-ended origins of Contact Improvisation and create a temporary lab where we can enquire into the form's past, present and future together.

This is a discussion circle: bring your curiosity, empathy, and the capacity to listen to others across difference.

Chrys Papaioannou (they/she)

Chrys is a critical theorist and activist who has been practising and studying Contact Improvisation since 2017. Their facilitation style is informed by their lived experience of PTSD and their commitment to anti-oppression and intergenerational mutual learning. Chrys's research articles on CI are forthcoming with *Performance Research* and *Maska* journals. When not dancing CI or writing academic articles, Chrys is learning to play the drums.

Justin Philpott (he/him)

Justin has been dancing Contact Improvisation consistently since 2014 in London, Brighton and across Europe. He started teaching CI in 2018 in collaboration with Marie Chabert at Chisenhale, and has since taught CI classes and festival sessions

at Goldsmiths, for Rick Nodine in London, and independently in London, Sussex and Greece. His movement background is primarily rooted in Thai Massage, Kung Fu and Yoga. The spaces that Justin holds for somatic practices invite the cultivation of stillness, deep listening and embodied discovery.