CONNECT. CONNECT. CONNECT.

Scene 1

VOICE
(*surges in highs and lows across scene*)
Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect.
Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect.

NARRATOR
Carina is 26 years old, originally from Romania, lives in Amsterdam, studied film,
has recently finished her MA, supports herself by doing various gigs. CARINA is
creating a profile on OKCupid. She gets stuck on Qn2: Which gender best
describes you?
- woman
-man
More options:
-agender
-androgynous
-bigender
-cis man
-cis woman
-gender fluid
-gender queer
-gender non conforming
-hijra
-intersex
-nonbinary
-other
-pangender
-trans-feminine
-transgender
-transmasculine

After a long moment, she selects "gender non-conforming." After answering a few more questions, she returns to Q2 and selects "gender queer" instead. Her profile is now complete.

VOICE
Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect. Connect.

She is tempted to write to the third suggested match. She receives a like from someone called Anna Adams.

//

JOÃO is 45 years old, Brazilian from Italian heritage, lives in Amsterdam, works in IT at the ING Bank on the Zuidas [*zaidos*]. He is furiously tapping the spin on a jackpot machine on his iPhone.

NARRATOR walks towards the screen with the data flows and says:

NARRATOR
A crowded room.

Scene 2

NARRATOR:
Alex creates an event that brings Carina and João together on a canal tour.

ALEX *comes on stage, holding the laptop with the affect bot.*

VOICE
Connect.

CARINA and JOÃO *reposition their chairs facing each other.*

RESEARCHER 2

Reset affect.

ALEX

"I am angry."
Me neglected there nasty violence

CARINA

I am angry too. You white men aren't aware of your privilege. Do you have any idea how much I'm neglected as an immigrant woman in the Netherlands? Or as a queer Romanian? Do you know how nasty people get about that?

JOÃO

I am the right kind of immigrant. You're just everything that's wrong with the world today. You come here and you get it easy, don't follow any laws - are you even here legally? Do you have a job? You came here to be promiscuous because you know they're too polite to do anything against you. And now you want to be treated like you're special and better than everyone, pushing your angry artsy dyke feminazi nonsense agenda.

CARINA

You know, you should educate yourself. You could learn something at this event that I was invited to. #queer #performance #discussion #activism #art #club #cafe

JOÃO

Why do you always have to be so nasty?

RESEARCHER 2

Alex says:
me suffering late isolated detention
he neglected late obituary deportation
myself neglected late bad warfare
we leave late isolated tears
she's leave late uneducated shame
us suffering late isolated awful.

Scene 3

CARINA walks up to ALEX and presses a button.

CARINA

Reset affect.

ALEX

"I am surprised."
She's inviting suddenly terrible anomaly.

CARINA

I do feel like a terrible anomaly in this society. I've always felt that way, especially in Romania. Patriarchal violence is the reason why I left my home country. I couldn't be myself there, my father wouldn't let me. Here, I am still an outsider, but at least I can be myself.

JOÃO *walks up to ALEX and presses a button.*

JOÃO

 Reset affect.

ALEX

"I am afraid."
Myself suffering anywhere terrible panic.

JOÃO

I sometimes wonder: do they laugh behind my back? I've lived here for years, have a good job, a Dutch wife, blond kids, but still I have an accent, and do they even see me as just another dirty immigrant? I feel trapped and bound.

CARINA & JOÃO

Reset affect.

Scene 4

ALEX + RESEARCHERS

[Alex reads] do not be distracted from the truth
that you make with your own body
Solidity is a useful illusion
It gets us through the day

[Bruno, Lieke] solidity (gets us) resists us
[Bruno] tectonic assurance is fragile ground
[Lieke] the truth is the emptiness in the middle of the atom
[Carina + Kim] the truth is the impressionability of matter, of us,

[all] the truth is the space we fight to shape

-M. Astley, Sussex University, Brighton England
http://fakenews-poetry.org/poems/brighton.html

NARRATOR

"CARINA" is a persona created by researchers Lieke Rademakers, Alex Juhasz, Ioana Jucan, and Liliana Bounegru and "JOÃO" is a persona created by researchers Carina Albrecht, Bruno Zilli, and Kim van Ruiven at the Digital Methods Summer School at The University of Amsterdam, Summer 2019. Our play is peopled by characters who were designed using two protocols for research personae designed by Liliana Bounegru and Ganaele Langlois and one protocol designed by Ioana Jucan and Alex Juhasz. Our thanks to Jonathan Gray for all the support during the process. Our settings were inspired by the data flows revealed by app research created with the tool, Charles, and under the leadership of Wendy Chun and Esther Weltevrede. Thank you for coming to our performance.