

## the audience:

is a series of experiments and expositions  
premiering in various venues and contexts  
more or less connected to the medium of performance

poses the audience as a question  
considers the creation, or exposure, of a collectivity  
a receptive, attentive plurality  
of dissenting and consenting beings

is here

Performed in

[draft 1](#)

at the Theatre Academy of Helsinki on the 24th January 2018

[drafts 2-20](#)

at the Theatre Academy of Helsinki on the 16th February 2018

[drafts 21-22](#)

at the Theatre Academy of Helsinki on the 15th March 2018

[drafts 23-30](#)

at Dance Hallerne in Copenhagen on the 9th April 2018

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## the audience:

draft 31

Dear audience member,

When writing this, I imagine being in Palestine. I imagine being in the garden of Kahlil Sakakini Cultural Center, reading this text among you. Among us. I imagine this distance of time and space bridged, and myself as a part of an us. An "us" that is now, when writing this, absent.

It is not easy. I keep distracting myself from writing this, finding excuses to do something else. I do the dishes. Prepare a class to teach. Play with my kids. Get a headache. Anything not to think about Palestine.

Because it haunts me. It turns my stomach around. It is increasingly hard to position myself in relation to it. How to take part in a catastrophe, of which I have only heard? How to witness violence from distance? How to take responsibility? How to understand, how to claim to care, how, how, how?

And now, we are here.

To honor that presence, I have a suggestion for you. I invite you to create something together, for a period of 30 minutes.

*That something is the creation of an audience.*

I propose that an audience is a way of conjuring a "we", a way of taking and giving power. As an audience I become complicit from distance, and thus a part, a member. It is a river and a bridge; a border and a union.

I propose our bodies step into 30 minutes of *audience time* – a time not organized by *me* but by *us* – a time to be with questions:

*Who are we? What deserves our gaze? What is our part?*

Before you start,  
I ask you to close your eyes for a moment.  
Take a few deep breaths.  
The audience time starts at the moment when you open your eyes.  
Once your eyes are open  
you are free to move in the garden  
in the way you choose, for 30 minutes.

*This time consists of the audience composing itself.*

See you in the after-time.

Yours,  
Tuomas

Ps. I suggest that we discuss after.