



Gilded Tongue is a multidisciplinary trans performance art collective founded by Archi and Cinthia Lilen, inspired by our experiences in cabaret and traditional theatre as queer immigrants living in the UK. We aim to play with the essence of theatre and want to make “queer” work not only with the themes of our performances but also questioning the structures and institutions that have defined what performance is. We ask *what is a stage? what is an audience? who decides where the lights hit?* as much as *what is gender? what is language? who decides what truth is?*

Our practice infuses immersive and site-specific elements with the raw energy and intimacy of cabaret, bridging the gaps between performance genres. We constantly experiment with different levels of intensity and interaction, looking at how they affect the power relationship between audience and performer. This exploration is assisted by the use of multimedia such as screen projections, live recordings, photography and soundscapes, creating evolving pieces that can shift and adapt to every event and venue.



A **Family Gathering** is a durational piece exploring gender roles and expectations through a trans lens. It is centered around the character of Mama, the motherly figure in a traditional family structure. The audience will be expected to fill specific roles with the help of instructions left around the table.

When every seat is filled, Mama comes alive and starts interacting with them, slowly building tension until she stops making sense. Mama then takes on a more monstrous and surreal form, climbing on the table and performing a movement piece. The performance comes to a close when suddenly Mama's body falls on the table, as the other actress playing Mama helps her out of the performance space and replaces her. The lights reset and the scene happens again.

In future iterations of this piece, the table setting itself will start glitching using screen projection, showing every gathering possible at the same time: birthdays, weddings, funerals, religious celebrations... The room will be filled with cards, bunting, balloons, flowers from ceiling to floor. We aim for the performance to last several hours, the performers growing more tired with each loop, opening more possibilities of Mamas to come.



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ther projects we are working on:

- **The Unmasking** blurs the line between the masks we wear literally and metaphorically, and through which mediums we allow people to see us. Assisted by the use of live recording, screen projection and pre-recorded videos, we ask which image of the self, if any, is the closest to truth?
- **Death of Self** invites the audience to desacralise grief by filling in *grief tickets* and adding them to an ever-growing physical collaborative creation. The grief cape will move enduringly under projected elements of nature and its death cycles.
- **OH MY GOD HIII** is a projection-mapped house party with DJ set. As the chaotic game of hosts and guests starts to unravel, the boundaries of reality leave space for new queer futures to emerge.

All of these pieces work individually but are also weaved together by their common themes and can be combined as part of a larger immersive experience.



GET IN TOUCH

gilded.tg@gmail.com



@gildedtongue

