

ENDOSYMBIOTIC
LOVE

Lookbook
2021



Endosymbiosis is a major driver in the evolution of many species. Endosymbiotic Love is the evolution of respect for other species; progressing from placing the human at the centre of things.

This art & science collaboration paired performance artists & microbiologists to embody a microorganism for every month of 2021 together. All practitioners involved have played their part to foster rich complex creative relationships, whether their disciplines are science, performance art or both. We want scientists and artists to share the love that is microbial. We go beyond the commensal to develop our own mutually beneficial interactions, creating synergistic relationships where we all learn, depend and become a part of each other, something more than the sum of our separate entities.

We want alliances and solidarity across science & art to reveal the intimate relationships between the human, non-human and the inhumane. Our diverse team of human animals have explored themes of symbiotic and mutualistic relationships, the diversity of gender, reproduction, sexual orientation and social behaviour in both microorganisms and humans. The intention is that this nurtures an understanding of others regardless of species and the wider struggles for representation.

What you are looking at is a collective effort, pulled through three countries during new critical relations with the SARS-CoV-2 virus that captures just some of the microbiological research, feminist and queer perspectives we have shared in a creative and sometimes provocative way. Like all organisms we had to adapt to continually changing circumstances and reflect on what is essential: love, kinship and care as a way of knowing and being.

Annalaura, Alex, Conway, Dee, Emmanuel, Ewan, Hwa Young, Juliet, Lee, Monica, Natalie Neil, Rod, Ross, RŶ, Sophie, Sunhwa, Tammy, Viv, Yasmine

S/S

Bacteriophage

Tulip breaking virus

Ophiocordyceps unilateralis

Giardia duodenalis

Cowpox

Shigella

F/W

Strombidium purpureum

Wolbachia

Mycorrhizal networks

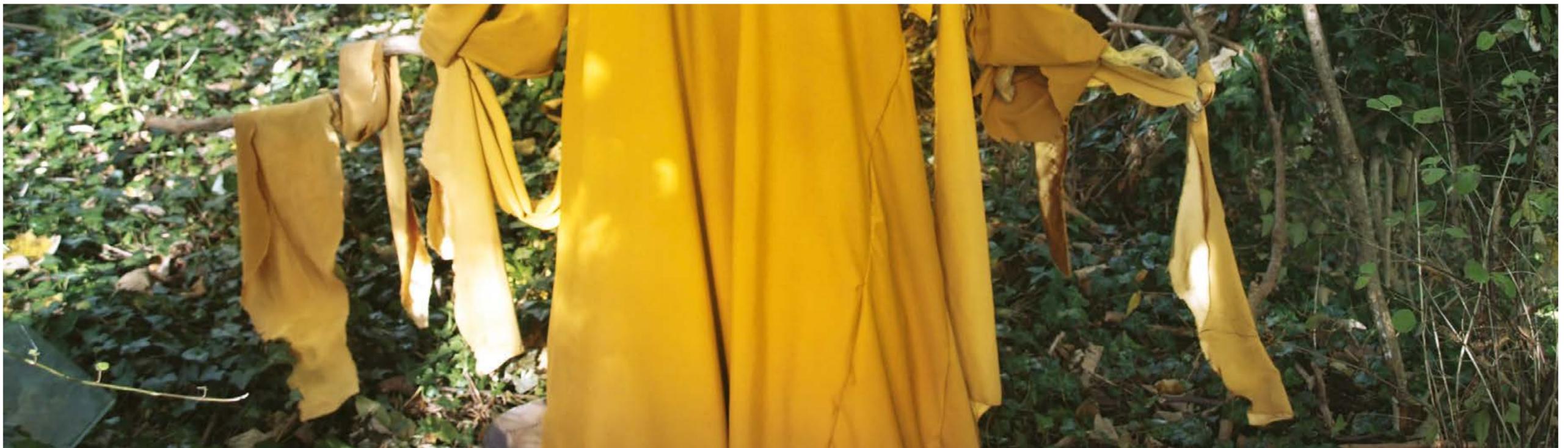
Leishmania mexicana

Neurons

Saccharomyces cerevisiae



Spring / Summer



Bacteriophage

Virus

🌐 Everywhere

A group of six hexagonal images arranged to form a diamond-shaped mosaic. In each, sections of an artichoke head come into contact with a human mouth, all a group of six hexagonal images arranged to form a diamond-shaped mosaic. In each, sections of an artichoke head come into contact with a human mouth, all enveloped by colourful threads, representing the absorptive qualities of bacteriophage.



Tulip breaking virus



Virus

🌐 Hopefully in your secret garden

A picture framing a pair of light blue, textured Y-front briefs; a section of skin showing stretch marks; some tulip bulbs and hands covered in glossy, purple gloves. Those elements appear in motion and contact. The effect is one of superimposition and fragmentation resonating with the aesthetic expression and physical impression of the Tulip breaking virus on the flower's petals.



Ophiocordyceps unilateralis

Fungi

🌐 Tropical forests

Rod Dillon and partner Viv performing in an image to depict the fungus Cordyceps as part of the endosymbiotic love calendar. Rod is dressed in a full length yellow robe with yellow material draped around his arms, dead branches extend from his hidden hands. Rods head is covered in a yellow hood. Another set of arms appear to extend from Rods shoulders, these are actually Vivs arms, she is hidden behind him. Rod has a heavily made up face, the design idea is based loosely on some of the make up of Leigh Bowery, the Australian performer. Streaks of black run down the front of his face, eyes are set in red and black make up. Rod has a far way, trance-like look in his eyes, indicating the desire of Cordyceps to control the infected ant. The Cordyceps character as depicted by Rod and Viv is set in a densely wooded area with dead branches and leaves strewn around the area. The yellow costume is a reference to the gothic horror fictional character the King in Yellow. This Victorian era play about the king in yellow induces despair and madness in those who read it



Giardia duodenalis

Protist

🌐 In animal intestines, travelling (via poop), or outside just waiting to be picked up

Tammy is lying in a brown shower. She is wearing a bright pink dress and a pearl necklace and her face is covered bright pink makeup with purple lipstick. Tammy is covered in brown liquid which also covers the brown shower and white tiles around her.



Cowpox

Virus

🌐 Digestive tract



Emmanuel is standing below leafy trees, dressed in a white T-shirt covered with pine cones. He is wearing a hat covered with smaller pine cones. Another kind of pine cone is hanging from his ear by an orange string. On his face he wears light blue makeup interspersed with large pink ovoid shapes, one of them crossing his mouth. On the hand with which he pushes a branch aside he is wearing a white horse riding glove.





Shigella

Bacteria

🌐 Digestive tract

The image shows RJ as a man from the 1800s named Lord Walter V, who is a greedy aristocrat. In the background is a gold curtain. He is wearing a white wig, a gold and grey jacket with eccentric shoulder pads, and a traditional fan neck piece. His makeup is grey and purple, giving it a stone effect. He has a snobby and pompous facial expression, and he looks very ill. Around his face is a head piece made from blue chip paper that represents the Shigella that is about to invade his intestines.





Fall / Winter



Strombidium purpureum

Marine ciliate

🌐 Basking in moonlit seas

A picture containing white wall tiles speckled with colours, their shimmer breaking through the silhouette of a dark, unidentifiable figure wearing reflective glasses and covered in translucent lights and materials. The purple aura and the juxtaposition effect melding background and foreground evokes the tonal and symbiotic nature of *Strombidium purpureum*.



Wolbachia

Bacteria

🌐 Insects and other invertebrates

The image shows Tammy sitting on a pink throne, wearing a blonde wig, white make up and bright red lipstick which matches with her tights. She's lowering her sunglasses with one hand to look at the camera, which is positioned at the level of her shoes – shiny massive black heels.





Mycorrhizal networks

Hyphal fungi

🌐 Connecting every plant or tree you see

A head and shoulders photograph of a fat, femme white person, wearing pale foundation, black lipstick, and a smokey dark eye in a 90's goth look, laying on the mossy and leafy forest floor. Conway has curly teal green hair, which is flicked up on the ground behind them, like curly tendrils in the moss. In one hand they hold a number of tarot cards, with roughly printed designs of mushrooms and roots abstractly overlapping in bright yellows and blues. In the other hand, they hold the handset of an old fashioned telephone, in shiny cherry red. Their expression is scandalized, as if they've just heard a very juicy piece of gossip over the phone.





Leishmania mexicana

Protist

🌐 Sandfly gut and macrophages

Yasmine is depicting the human immune cell macrophage being surrounded and infected with the parasite *Leishmania*. She is dressed a long Dashiki dress which is historically worn as a sign of black pride, sitting on an Ankara (wax print) cloth in the Kente design surrounded with red biohazard bags and dried allium flowers. Yasmine's face is painted in blue representing the vibrant dyes used in cell staining such as methylene blue as well as the Coomassie blue dye used in protein work which originates from the city Kumasi in Ghana. Alliums surrounding the face represents the *Leishmania* parasites invading the macrophage, infecting it. The black and gold dots on her face represents the chaotic events that occurs within the macrophage. The intensity within Yasmine's eyes depicts the feelings of hopelessness, pain and worry that the macrophage is going through as it gets infected and knows the future is bleak, also referencing Kathakali's story-telling and drama. The mixture of Dashiki, Ankara and Kathakali eyes represents Yasmine's mixed heritage, and represents the global presence of *Leishmania* from sub-saharan Africa to South Asia and further.



Neurons

🌐 The brain

A close up of Neil and Ewan's faces, their eyes looking intensely into the camera, with blue, pink and white makeup showing neurons and their connections. This image pays tribute to our microbial ancestors, that have provided the molecular machinery used by neurons to govern everything we do and who we are. It also highlights the complex interactions that neurons use that allow us to respond and adapt to an ever changing world, and also how they connect us to the world and to each other.



Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Unicellular fungi

🌐 Widely found in nature

The image shows the artist Conway's head. They are wearing a costume of pink netting material to represent the pink yeast. They have a silver ring through their nose. In the image are three pink marshmallows that represent the sugar food required by the yeast. One of these is above their right eyebrow, the second covers their left eye and the third one is in their mouth. Pink glass beads are set around their mouth and left eye. Their face has heavy make up and their hair is dyed pink.



Bacteriophage

Annalaura Alifuoco, Natalie Beveridge & Fabiola Paz

Photo: Fabiola Paz

Cowpox

Emmanuel Laplantine & RJ Lloyd

Photo: Margaux Choupi

Makeup: Margaux Choupi

Costume assistant: Esther Laplantine

Giardia duodenalis

Dee Walshe & Tammy Reynolds

Photo: Christopher Connor

Leishmania mexicana

Yasmine Kumordzi & Tammy Reynolds

Photo: Ben Jones

Neurons

Ewan Russell, Neil Dawson & RJ Lloyd

Photo: RJ Lloyd

Makeup: Carmen Arquellades

Mycorrhizal networks

Conway McDermott & Natalie Beveridge

Photo: Ryan Ygnacia Munguia

Ophiocordyceps unilateralis

Rod, Viv Dillon & Conway McDermott

Photo: Rod Dillon

Make up: Rod Dillon

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

Conway McDermott & Viv Dillon

Photo: Ryan Ygnacia Munguia

Shigella

Emmanuel Laplantine & RJ Lloyd

Photo: RJ Lloyd

Makeup: Carmen Arquellades

Tulip Breaking Virus

Annalaura Alifuoco & Lee Haines

Photo: Fabiola Paz

Strombidium purpureum

Annalaura Alifuoco & Lee Haines

Photo: Fabiola Paz

Wolbachia

Tammy Reynolds, Yasmine Kumordzi & Rod Dillon

Photo: Christopher Connor

Underlined folks appear in the photo.

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