

# Thanks for Being Here

by Ontroerend Goed

*English translation.*

## 0. Entree

*Where the audience enters the auditorium while being filmed by two cameras.*

## 1. Square

*Where the audience watches the world outside, watching a latecomer arrive.*

## 2. Audience scan

*Where the audience looks at themselves. And the camera slowly brings everyone into view.*

*Someone enters the stage and playbacks an announcement:*

Yes hello um

I have an idea, but you would have to put this at the beginning of the show

I don't really have anything to add

But I do think it's important to know

That you are being filmed

Erm... you could say at the beginning of the performance, for example  
There are cameras here

One on stage  
One to the side, one above you

There is also one outside  
Blablabla

Um, the film footage is not used  
That is also important to know

And you don't have to do anything as an audience euh....  
You can just watch

Hmmm  
Yes  
That

### **3. Portraits/Expectations**

*Where different visitors are portrayed one by one.  
And where we listen to recordings of the expectations the visitors had  
before going to see the performance.*

#### **PORTRAIT 1.**

Someone who actually really has a message for the world  
who really, yeah,

wants to convince the world of a certain idea

or wants to pass on a certain message

and so, they are really happy that you came

because that means that he or she or they were able to plant that see

### **PORTRAIT 2.**

Thanks for being here...

I think it would be sarcastic

that it wasn't meant that way  
it was kind of rejecting and saying  
thanks for being here mate

thanks for being here  
or I completely misinterpreted it  
and it was very sincere

which would make me anxious in another way  
and think  
oh, should I be here?

### **PORTRAIT 3.**

About love?

Um

Yes

About love

That people come together

And that they're happy to see each other

And that maybe they didn't expect that

### **PORTRAIT 4.**

I think of people we've lost, um

people who once existed

but no longer exist or something  
people who once were there  
and who aren't there anymore

in a way  
alright, not in a super heavy way  
but in a.... yes

that we're grateful to them  
that they were ever there

**PORTRAIT 5.**

1: it can be a lot hey  
it could be -

2: I hope something wild

1: ooh  
yes I can go with that, something wild

2: thanks for being here, yeah I don't know

1: some form of appreciation for who comes  
some form of respect somewhere

2: yes I don't know  
or something very public

1: ah, yeah, yeah  
2: interaction with the audience or something

1: and actually the interaction already starts now, huh

2: that's true

1: maybe we are part of the

2: of the performance

### **PORTRAIT 6.**

thank you for being here  
maybe like projected there at first?

that's the initial thing that i expect to see  
so i would see some sort of old school  
90's light on the stage

you know when you go to like a yearly office party or something  
and then you have a sort of poeeef

you know digitally made  
some sort of fireworks, you know

### **PORTRAIT 7.**

um yeah just

thanking the audience?

Who are we here with?

surely more than 100 people?

and that everyone is thanked one by one

eh, **Jeroen**, my name

eh yes I don't know

Peter, Marjan

or by surname

eh

Katrine Finch

eh

John Smitssers..sson.

just to thank everyone one by one  
for being there?

**PORTRAIT 8.**

That there is a kind of...  
kind of praising of the human being  
of the individual

'hey, so glad you're here  
nice that you exist'  
and anybody can say that to anybody

so that seems incredibly cozy  
besides, that's one thing that's desperately needed

because there are too many things  
there are too many issues  
the world is a labyrinth

**there are too many people too**

Anyway  
for now there is not much we can do about it

**PORTRAIT 9.**

I think the show  
Thanks for being here  
is about the masses

about the whole  
about everyone being one

about saying

that everybody sits together like sheep  
in a room that is locked

they have to obey the performers, of course  
they have to follow you  
It's also a very strict dynamic.

you have to watch  
and you have to follow  
so maybe that's what it's about?

### **PORTRAIT 10.**

*Singing*

thanks for being a friend  
you know  
how does it go?  
genius  
thank you for being a friend  
yeah, it makes me think of that song  
it makes me feel good

### **PORTRAIT 11.**

I have no idea  
I have no idea

I'll probably read information about it first  
and then have a certain feeling  
or expectation when I go to the performance  
never too much  
That is never good

I will let it come to me  
But apart from that, I have no clue

**PORTRAIT 12.**

people who are going to meet  
always in a different way

it's always different people who are going to bump into each other  
and then they have to say goodbye again

and the next day somebody else meets somebody else  
and at the end of the show

I think they are all going to run into each other  
and then

that they will know each other  
but that they won't know each other the way they see each other

and then they have to say goodbye again  
so the performance is about seeing and saying goodbye

**PORTRAIT 13.**

thanks for being here  
makes me think of life  
that you look back on

and that you're grateful that some people have crossed your path  
and how that changed the course of your life

so... how you then pour that into a theatrical performance  
I don't know

but that's what I would talk about



I think that's to be expected

## 4. Disco Mirror Ball

*Where the audience watches a mirror ball hanging above them.*

## 5. Audience enters on screen

*Where the audience sees itself entering the theater.*

*Where two voices direct the audience, first in actions and then in characters who inhabit the theater.*

123 TEST TEST

JEROM JEROM

L: Yes, we'd like to start with an empty space

A room with (*color*) chairs, (*un*)numbered

About (*number*) of rows, one behind the other

Two balconies

Nice

the space can remain empty for a while

except maybe for some expectant tension

we'd like the lights to be warm and inviting

it can remain silent for a little while

K: to the people waiting outside: in a minute I want you all to come in  
Maybe stagger it a bit so you don't come in all at once

you can decide who enters when  
it doesn't have to be complicated

yes, exactly, that looks good  
And then you may now appoint someone among you who will come in  
first...

Okay so that will be.... Perfect.  
you are going to do that very nicely

so, the first person can come in

### **\*\*\*\* IMPROVISATION \*\*\*\***

K: Everyone in the auditorium, you can now wait just a few more minutes  
for the people who are still to come in.

Since you're already seated you don't have to get up, that would really  
make it far too complicated.

The house lights are still on, the doors are still open  
And, yet, most of you can feel

The show is about to start

Maybe you check a few final things, make sure your things are in the right  
place, that your ticket is tucked away...

L: You start to prepare for the darkness that's about to come  
The atmosphere in the auditorium gradually starts to change

Your focus shifts from the outside world to in here  
Inside this building, this auditorium

And some of you can start shifting your thoughts towards the front  
Towards the stage

Those of you still coming in  
Try not to break the concentration,  
The growing expectation

Nice,  
And now that sense of expectation can gradually spread through the whole  
auditorium

And you can watch what's going to happen.

## **6. After the applause**

*Where a voice describes to the audience how a spectator behaves after the applause. And where the latecomer then gets up and leaves the auditorium.*

OK.

The applause is over.

The lights on stage go out, and the lights in the auditorium slowly come back on.

Your eyes have to get used to the light – you blink, rub them a bit  
You can feel one world slowly turning back into the other

You sit up a bit straighter

You look away from the stage, left and right – yes.

You smile at the person next to you.  
You look at the people around you.

You stay seated for a while  
You know the show is over, but you're waiting  
You're not going to be the first to stand up.

You turn your head towards the stage again,  
And you don't have words for it yet, it's more just a feeling

But your opinion of the show is starting to form in your mind.  
Yes. Good.

You run your hands through your hair  
And now Patricia, you can start thinking about leaving  
You look at the exit

And now, you decide to pick up the coat that's by your feet and stand up  
The other people are still collecting their things so you have to wait a bit

And now you start moving towards the aisle  
You move slowly. You shuffle a bit.

People around you are starting to talk to each other.  
You catch words here and there.

You wonder what you'll say if someone asks,  
"and? what did you think of the show?"  
Now you're at the aisle. you let someone go ahead of you.

You slot in and walk along the stage towards the exit  
You see the faces of the other people from the audience.

You keep heading out.  
You briefly look back at the seat you were sitting in

You leave the auditorium.

And now you bump into someone you know  
You walk past the bar and you decide to have a drink

You order a sparkling water and a beer  
And here comes that question...

“What did you think of the show?”

OK. Patricia, You know what you want to say so you share your thoughts.

“Yeah,” says the other person.

They leave a pause, they nod and then they say:

“Yeah, I see that, but – “

And now you listen to the other persons opinion  
while you nod and drink your sparkling water.  
Your glass is empty. You wonder whether to go home or order another.

You order another sparkling water.  
You tell them about another show you saw recently.  
You say, “this reminded me of another show I saw,

Where they had a scene after the curtain call,  
I think they could have done that here, right?”

“Oh, that’s a good idea,” the person says,

“That would have been great.”

You both fall into a silence, but that’s ok.

It isn’t awkward.

And now the other person says something completely different, another  
idea that they think would have been great if it had been in this show.

And now you can get into a groove, each of you suggesting ideas for other scenes you think should have been in this show.

And now the other person says something that really makes you laugh. You order a beer and a cava and you say: ok fine but I really have to go home after this.

You drink your drink.

You say goodbye.

You leave.

## **7. The Outsider**

*Where the latecomer addresses people outside and asks one of them to come in with her.*

## **8. Added scenes by the audience**

*Where we hear recordings of previous audience members giving ideas for the performance.*

*Where the actors sit in the audience and say along to the recordings in the picture as if they were their voices.*

**1.**

Hi Leo

I'll quickly run downstairs

I, actually mean Ontroerend Goed

Because it's directed to all of you of course

I was there yesterday  
As you know  
And euh.... There's a lot in it  
Also really my thing

So I feel like it's going to become a beautiful performance  
One thing that's still on my mind  
I think...Involving the audience more

Of course the show is about the audience  
So I thought  
Why not ask us  
To make up scenes

And to interview us or record us?  
And to use those recordings again  
In the show  
Live recordings or  
You could also ask people to leave you a message  
On a phone like I'm doing now

Euh, I don't know if that could be clear..  
But I think so  
Maybe.. In the venue..

So.. yeah, that was an idea  
Good luck!

And I'll come and watch the show for sure  
When it's finished  
If such a thing exists..  
Okay  
Bye bye



yes of course I saw the performance of Thanks  
Euhm and yes ... yes.... Very nice!  
That you ask us to add something like that.

um....I have to be honest,  
Uh ... nothing really comes to mind at the moment.  
Uh... But I think it's a really cool question.

That you involve people in this way after the show.  
And I think it's a really cool question.

So hopefully other people will have more input?  
And yes, bye!

### 3.

Yes, I do have an idea for the performance  
If you just

During the performance  
Go outside  
Go to somebody randomly on the street, start talking to them  
And bring them inside

In the venue  
Or even on stage?

And then, that person can  
Stay or leave or join in, that's for you guys to see

But if you could just bring  
bring them into the auditorium

I don't know.  
I think that would be..  
A new experience or something.

**4.**

Hey!

Um, Yeah, I wanted to leave you a message

Because I had another

Yes, idea

For the show

Wait, hey.

Am I now

Wait

After

Um, so

I wanted to chime in on something because I um -

Because I -

had another idea I wanted to share with you guys

That maybe you can do something with

I don't know.

I don't know if it's something you want, but

I'm a little tired

I'll catch up another time

If it's okay

Then um

If I'm a little sharper

Okay

Bye!

**5.**

Euh yes, if the performance is about us,  
about the audience actually

Then I also think that the audience  
should be the protagonist

So somehow, yes  
That we actually become the actors  
I mean.. euhm.. but I don't really want that either

So without us really participating  
Nothing participatory or anything  
hmm...  
Good luck with that!

**6**

Adding something to the performance... um...  
But yes, if you don't get anything ...

Yes I find that strange ...  
I think it's a really big responsibility.

As a spectator, um...  
Well, that makes you very vulnerable.

If you are... dependent on the input of...  
of the audience...

Well, people sometimes have a bad day.  
Or... are just plain uninspired.  
So yes, have you ... actually  
thought about that?

**6.**

It might be a little too conceptual,  
Suppose you use  
All through the performance

Only the voices of the audience  
So never really voices of the actors

But just the audience  
I don't know

Of course I'm not a theater maker  
But eh yeah  
This is my idea

**7.**

Yes, I'm just wondering uh  
Who is going to choose those ideas?

I mean.. Isn't there going to be too much material?  
Eventually I think it will take too long.. no?

Or are you going to create some sort of archive of all those ideas?

**8.**

Yeah, uh, hello, ontroerend goed.  
Uh... I saw your show. Thanks for being here.

And I was wondering, uh...  
when i saw the show  
euh Is everything.... made up by the audience?

Because that would be really euh... mega cool.  
uh yeah, I don't know if that's possible.

But if the whole show was really made up by the audience too  
so everything is... by, with and for the audience.  
that would, yes, that would be awesome.  
it would be maybe euh... a bit... yes a mess

but yeah I dunno but  
yeah, I don't know if it makes sense.  
But that would be really cool.

9.

One, two, three, test test test  
I'd like my name in the show: JEROM

10.

Hey Ontroerend Goed  
I've just seen your wonderful performance  
And um

You then asked the question:  
'what would you like to add to the performance?'  
Or uh whether there is a scene or something  
that we, the audience, could suggest

I've been thinking about that  
And I just really wanted  
to ask my grandfather

He's not here anymore  
But I'm sure he would have had an answer for that  
That he would have known a scene  
And yes  
That that his voice could have become a part of the performance  
So yes  
That

11.

Hey Ontroerend Goed,  
I just saw your performance Thanks for Being Here  
I might have an idea

During your performance I was actually thinking about  
The history of theater

Especially the turning point in the 16th century  
The moment when theater went from outside  
From open air  
To inside

But actually the whole social function  
From the outside to inside  
The idea of a meeting place

Of a marketplace  
A place where people talked  
Where people came together

Sometimes not at all listening to the shows  
But mostly listened to each other  
And wanting to be watched

Sometimes the curtains of the boxes were closed  
What happened then

Eh  
God knows...  
So the whole idea of

The theater as a social meeting place  
As a microcosmos of society

Um  
You actually still see that in today's 'bonbonnières'  
Which are made so that the audience  
Can mostly look at each other

And almost incidentally at the performance  
So I had to think about that

Fits with your performance I guess  
That you have the audience say...

With binoculars  
The idea of binoculars  
Looking at each other

Maybe it would be nice  
Should every member of the audience  
Be scanned

That they come into view one by one  
That would be very, very nice  
Each face passing on the screen

Well.. yeah.  
That's an addition  
Eh  
That I would dare to do  
Were I you

**12.**

I would love a.. yes a classical scene  
Erm... and when I think of a classical scene

I see before me...  
Costumes  
Big costumes  
Maybe... I don't know...  
Hoop skirts?

And dialogue  
I really don't want to miss out on that.

**13.**

1: Hello... So um... Maybe it's a bit of a crazy idea to see on stage, or maybe not, I'm down for everything ahm: a disco ball.

2: Ahhh, mmm

3: I really like it

4: Yeah!

2: it can be interesting

3: I feel like it could suit in the center of the stage with a very nice lighting, the light reflects on everyone, it could create a great atmosphere

2: ah yeah, we could work with reflection also

4: But are you thinking of a big disco ball or a bit smaller one?

2: I really imagine a massive one actually in the middle of the stage

4: oh, yeah, yeah

1: I imagine a hundred many but no no no a bigger one yeah it would be nicer

3: Just one big one

1: a singular piece just... having a lot of fragments on people

3: an imagine that when it's spinning the light also spins with it

2: oehh I really like the spinning

It's a great idea

**14.**

Yes Hello um

I have an idea, but you would have to put this to at the beginning of the show

I don't really have anything to add

But I do think it's important

To know

That you are being filmed



Erm... you could say at the beginning of the performance, for example

There are cameras here

One on stage

One to the side, one above you

There is also one outside

Blablabla

Um

The film footage is not used

That is also important to know

And you don't have to do anything as an audience euh....

You can just watch

Hmmm

Yes

That

**15.**

Hello ontroerend goed,

I came to see your show

and I really enjoyed it. It was very nice

I don't really have an additional idea for a new scene

but I would like it better

if there was a little music in the performance

just soft music, maybe a little emotional

a song that touches the audience.

I would like that.

**16.**

At the end you had a bit of this emo music

that tearjerker music

But I was wondering because now the tempo is, um, the same all the time  
I was wondering if, um  
could we get a climax during the song?

You really hope that at that moment something will happen to the music.  
But yes.  
Maybe it would help if the actress playing the audience suddenly starts to  
cry.

so she suddenly starts crying really hard.  
Uhm it's just an idea.  
If that works it would be really, really golden  
I think

**17.**

Hey ontroerend goed  
Thanks, thank you for the new performance

Euhm the question regarding new ideas.. I'm not really with you on that..  
I feel like the show is already finished.

So I don't really understand where you're going to use those ideas  
Or where you're going to put them in the show

**18.**

Bizarre question  
For me, the piece is already finished  
Really

## 9. Archive and Rewind

*Where ideas and expectations still resound.*

*Where audiences from previous performances are shown.*

*Where we see tonight's audience entering the venue but in reverse.*

*So we see them. Where in a credits line every player and contributor is thanked.*

*And where at the end the curtain is pulled back and shows an empty room, the room before everyone entered, before the performance began.*

**- The End. -**

### **+ . Delay leaving.**

*Where the audience is seen applauding themselves and leaving the room.*