

A vibrant outdoor event with people in colorful clothing dancing in front of a purple and pink bus. The scene is lively and festive, with people in various outfits, including a bright blue jacket and a pink headscarf, moving to the music. The bus in the background has a large window and is decorated with purple and pink stripes. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and community.

FANDANGO DISCOTECA + GRIEF RAVES

- FIVE UK LOCATIONS- HACKNEY, WESTON SUPER MARE, MILTON KEYNES, LONDON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AS WELL AS BERLIN.
- MORE THAN 250,000 PEOPLE REACHED.
- HIGHEST FOOTFALL LONDON AND BERLIN, FOLLOWED BY GREENBELT, MILTON KEYNES
- MORE THAN 15 FACILITATORS COLLABORATING,
- INTERNATIONAL PRESS HIGHLIGHTS,
- INTERSECTIONS OF GRIEF SHAKEN OUT.

WESTON SUPER MARE

- We delivered a grief rave in May 2023 at the brightly coloured bandstand co-created with local communities and Morag Myerscough's which was the perfect location for us.
- The Grief Rave was part of Super Weston's Culture "Good Grief Festival" with a full programme of events and workshops.
- We estimate around 500 engaged with us including people who had intentionally visited and passing public who stopped to find out more or have a dance,
- Lots of dedications were made and we reached a cross section of society, across the lifespan, including those who would be considered vulnerable, homeless, with addiction or experiencing disabilities, We create very inclusive spaces.
- A group of women specifically came to remember their best friend who had died, and requested several songs and danced with us and others to remember her.
- A woman with her husband had stopped to see what we were doing, and after a chat she became very emotional, she didn't have significant loss per se but was very touched and moved by the experience. She described how it held hope and sadness together in one space and it was very moving.



CANARY WHARF


- Part of the popular Festival 14 Programme with a 7 day programme at the end of July. We had a high footfall because of the festival with a high footfall of thousands of people came through over the week.
- Music and dance is a great connector, with many diverse cultures coming into the kiosk, with songs being played from all over the world and in many different languages including India, Mexico, Romania, France, Italy, Spain, Middle East. People were thrilled they could play songs from their own cultures.
- The public could access the kiosk individually or in small groups to shake out their weeks, grief, anxiety etc but we also had a full programme of facilitated workshops too including yoga, soca, voguing, grief raves, Cubano Soul Live band, The Shoopery, DJs and Housewarmers.
- A range of people were remembered and honoured including friends, husbands, siblings, grandparents, pets etc. An older lady in her 80s also came and requested an operatic song to remember her husband who loved opera, we sat together in the kiosk and she told me stories about him (her mobility was limited for dancing).
- Other special moments included several instances of dancing and singing to Nothing Compares 2U to remember Sinéad O'Connor and hosting people who had travelled from across the country including Portsmouth, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Birmingham.
- We also had conversations about death and mortality with people experiencing serious illness



MILTON KEYNES

- Milton Keynes took place at the open-air market for a week at the beginning of August.
- We were keen to involve the market traders and made a lot of effort to get to know them and ask them for their song requests. This led to many different cultures being represented including across India, Sri Lanka, Turkish/Kurdish, Afro-Caribbean, Romania and Latin America.
- We had a regular middle-aged male attend who was an ex-vet and had been homeless and struggling with addiction. He came every day to chat to us and shared stories of friends who'd died in service, post service by suicide and the loss of his parents. He found a safe space where he was accepted and could connect with us over music.
- Some special moments included StreetSoundSystem being invited by local Kurdish stallholders to dance together, and a young lady of 14 who had a transformational experience. She had come past the kiosk but was obviously very shy and could barely make eye contact. After walking by a second time, we got her talking and our producer got her dancing in the kiosk, where she really let go. As conversations unfolded it became apparent that she was teaching herself the saxophone and told us that she never felt confident. Later on, she returned with her family during the Cubano Soul live band, and the percussionist who'd given her some advice about learning an instrument got her playing some percussion with the band. She was visibly delighted, and you could see her confidence growing. At the end of the day, everyone in the square got up and danced together and she was there in the middle, really letting go and shaking it out. She said she'd never felt that free before.
- Another group of young people aged around 11-14 came and wanted to play drill music, drill music is very controversial, but we wanted them to engage with us. We ended up creating an exchange where they played us their drill music and we shared songs with them they might not have heard of before. It opened up some interesting conversations about drill, life as a young person, and violence in communities and the group returned later in the day. It enabled us to connect with a group who were by their own admission surprised that we "let them play their stuff". Demonstrating again the ability of our spaces to connect with a range of people and open up important conversations.



A group of people is dancing in a public square at dusk. The scene is filled with people of various ages and styles, some in formal wear and others in casual clothing. In the background, there are trees, buildings, and a red awning. The lighting is soft, suggesting the time is either early evening or late afternoon. The overall atmosphere is one of community and shared activity.

The Fandangoe DISCOTECA takes people to the very last dancefloor of their European dreams, imagining a space where you can shake out your anxiety and grief, unravel your political and climate angst and exist alone but together, bound by the beauty of the dance space. It is an ode to all that's been lost and retrieved and the unspoken force of the dancefloor, with the unbelievable blessing of Saša himself, who still likes to dance at 81 years old.

The collaboration between Annie and Carly creates alternative spaces to explore, process and acknowledge all intersections of grief and loss. 'Grief Moves' enables the joy and hope of the DISCOTECA installation, conceived by Frost Nicholson, and the GRIEF RAVES jointly created and developed, which have been shared with communities across the UK and beyond, touring throughout 2023 and we hope into 2024.

This follows the success of [The Fandangoe WHIP](#) and [SKIP](#) from 2021-22, which travelled across the country before being commissioned by [Arts Brookfield](#) at World Trade Center to encourage the public to share their individual and collective grief over an ice cream. 'The Grief Raves were phenomenally powerful at the World Trade Center in October and at Canary Wharf last Summer,' says the duo. 'Our team of professionals were able to create a feeling of safety and warmth for collective grief on the dancefloor, bringing people from all walks of life together to share memories of their loved ones over music.'

Similarly to both the [Fandangoe Whip](#) and the [Skip](#), The Loss Project focuses on integrating a diverse and nuanced programme into the installation itself, encouraging audiences to reflect upon questions of both intimacy and release that a good dance space will cultivate, bringing us home to safety and forming inevitable bonds between dancing and our individual and collective mental health. We truly encourage visitors to shake out their day, their week, their lives, freely, in a safe space, with no judgement, underscored by good dose of Italo Disco.



GREENBELT FESTIVAL- NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

- Whilst The Loss Project and Annie Frost Nicholson don't align to any faith or religion, we were invited to bring a GRIEF RAVE and installation as part of the festival, which brought the fabulous rave shed.
- Along with The Shoopery, we brought a series of Grief Raves, some using Silent Disco and others via speaker as a collective, along with The Shoopery's genius practice to help people overcome anxiety and to let go.
- We had many conversations with people about grief, loss, bereavement and loss in general.
- Special moments included a request of the garage version of the Casualty theme tune to remember someone's Mum, who loved Casualty, an older gentleman who really loved 90s rave music, and a 10 year old boy who requested a song from Hamilton to remember his Dad who had died recently.

\\facilitators//

- The Shoopery
- Street Sound System
- Bollywood Vibes
- Zaiah Arts
- Tatiana - Vogueing
- Madlyn Maya Yoga
- Cubano Soul and Camerados
- Brinny Does- MK Producer
- The Music Room
- Housewarmers
- Linnett Kamala
- Romboyd Music
- The Blair Academy



PRESS

- @anniefrostnicholson and @thelossproject1 on Instagram for more info on press, images, and videos of the installations and grief raves.
- Guardian - <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/jul/09/dance-grief-rave-disco-artist-bereavement>
- Participant Video: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyyNZq8s6YG/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>
- German TV - https://www.instagram.com/reel/CvfzV0GlcBV/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- Radio Scotland - https://www.instagram.com/reel/CujsTzTlq-A/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- Independent - <https://inews.co.uk/culture/music/grief-rave-after-my-friend-died-what-happened-2591657>
- Frame Magazine (print only)
- Elle Decoration
- https://www.instagram.com/reel/CxcqjXfilHey/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
- <https://www.tudojaexiste.com.br/artista-britanica-cria-mini-discoteca-para-ajudar-pessoas-em-processo-de-luto/>
- <https://eldiariodeminatitlan.com.mx/2023/08/10/discoteca-itinerante-con-colores-alegres-pero-repleta-de-tristeza/>
- <https://alephnews.ro/entertainment/o-artista-britanica-a-creat-o-discoteca-pentru-a-i-ajuta-pe-oameni-sa-treaca-de-momentele-tensionate-ce-fel-de-activitati-va-desfasura/amp/>
- <https://www.periodismo.com/2023/08/09/la-discoteca-itinerante-con-colores-alegres-pero-repleta-de-tristeza/>
- <https://www.lifegate.it/fandangoe-kid-rave-lutto>
- https://www.ow.gr/wellness/mia-mini-ntisko-periodevei-stin-evropi-gia-na-apeleftheroseis-to-penthos-sou/?utm_source=News247&utm_medium=footer&utm_campaign=24MediaWidget&utm_term=Pos1&_p
- <https://www.publico.pt/2023/07/19/p3/noticia/discoteca-movel-poete-dancar-sacudir-tristeza-portugal-2057134>



LEARNINGS AND NEXT STEPS

- The public responded to the notion of expressing the inexpressible through your body, and the use of dance and movement as an alternative way to explore all intersections of grief and loss.
- We need more facilitators during opening hours to help manage the public, have chats but also to manage the safety and wellbeing of the facilitator taking part.
- We have had widespread interest and want to continue taking the DISCOTECA and grief raves to other parts of the UK and beyond. We were able to take the Kiosk to Berlin during Berlin Art's Week and have other interested commissions in Germany, Norway, Denmark amongst others. We are seeking further funding for Grief Raves and commissions in the UK.
- We are now working on other projects including one centered around Climate Grief and another using boxing as a release for stigmatized emotions such as grief.
- We continue to use our collaboration with Annie and public realm art to develop and hone a very unique practice or creating alternative spaces to explore important human experiences, alongside a therapeutic and progressive programme that is accessible to a wide range of people.
- The public want spaces outside of clinical settings and talking therapies to explore these subject matters.





Contact Carly at The Loss Project for more information
hello@thelossproject.com / 07943 997 827.