

## Distance/ing

**Props: a cell phone for each of the characters**

*A minimalist play about two characters. character one (c1) and character two (c2) they are around the ages of eighteen to twenty eight. They can be of any gender and any race. They are positioned on the stage distanced apart most of the time they do not acknowledge each other's presence as they share their stories, but on occasion they do and it gets more frequent symbolising the coming together of people in times of need (it is stated in the stage directions when they do). Directors can play with the idea of movement and space but keeping social distanced (Two meters/ six feet away) is important.*

C1: not once in my life did I think

C2: not once in my life did I think

C1: I would be where I am now

C2: *(to C1)* where *WE* are now

C1: You always learn and read about these things in the history books

C2: Swine Flu, Zika, Ebola ..

C1: But nothing like this. Never did I think I would be a part of something as *big* as this.

C2: nothing involving the full shut down of basically the entire world...

C1: hundreds, thousands...

C2: Millions of people dying

C1: It's scary

C2: It's scary

*(beat)*

C1: being stuck inside my house

C2: away from my family

C1: fearing for my life

C2: fearing for my life

C2: because the media is broadcasting about a virus that could end up killing me ...

C1: And I am not ready to die yet

C2: and I am not ready to die yet

C1: I just finished university

C2: I've just began my new life in a new country and now...

C1: Things have taken an  
Unexpected turn

C2: Things have taken an  
unexpected turn

*(beat)*

C1: I remember it clearly. I was on my way to the library

C2: I was acting on stage in a school production

C1: when I got the email. *(pulls out phone)*

C2: when I left the stage and one of my cast members jaw was dropped. We all couldn't believe it, well... that's a lie. We *WERE* expecting it. But not so soon anyways. I remember when the show was over we all ran upstairs to check our phones and read the email.

C1: "Campus will officially be shutting down as of Monday. No classes, no labs, And students are ask to leave the campus and residences. Services and buildings will also be closing. please wait to hear any other further updates regarding the rest of the semester"

C2: Leaving?... Yeah that's not possible for me. I'm from a country many plane rides away and..

C1: Due to the conditions of the pandemic  
We are closing down some provincial borders  
And international flights will be cancelled

C2: Due to the conditions of the pandemic  
we are closing down some provincial boarders  
and international flights will be cancelled

*(C1 puts the phone away)*

C2: Great. I guess I'm stuck here for the time being. *(Beat)* It happened so quickly... One minute I was planning a trip back home to visit the family So I can tell them all about school, the friends I've made, the wonderful place that is Canada. I had a little Canadian flag ready to be hung up in the living room back home... but next thing I knew...

C1: I felt trapped

C2: I was trapped.

C2: Trapped in this new country that I am still trying to get used to. Homesick away from my family

C1: Away from my friends

C2: Away from my friends

C1: We went from hugging and loving to...

C1: Please remain 6 feet away  
To prevent further spread of COVID 19

C2: Please remain 6 feet away  
to prevent further spread of COVID 19

C1: and I hate it...

C2: *(to C1)* Me too... *(to audience)* I hate not being able to be surrounded by the people that I love and care about

C1: I hate not being able to go out for a drink with my pals, sit in class and as much as I hated it... listen to a 3 hour lecture. I even missed attending my own convocation, something many people look forward to when they first walk through those university doors. Yeah, I know we had a virtual ceremony. But... something about virtual convocation seemed so...

C2: *(to C1)* Unusual...?

C1: Underwhelming...?

C2: Distant.

*(beat)*

C1: I thought I was a homebody. I found comfort in being alone. but now *(Beat)* I want to be anywhere but home. I don't want to be a part, I don't want to social distance

C1: but if it's the only thing that's going to  
Keep this pandemic from getting any  
Worst and keep people from having death  
Knock at their doors

C2: but if it's the only thing that's going to  
Keep this pandemic from getting any  
and keep people from having death  
knock at their doors.

C2: I think we should listen..

C1: *(To C2)* Yes... I think we should

*(beat)*

C2: Putting myself at risk

C1: and putting others at risk

**Marissa Trott**

**Distance/ing**

C1: Isn't a part of my game plan

C2: isn't a part of my game plan

C2: my game plan is leaving the house only to

C1: Take a short walk for my mental health

C2: to go to the grocery store for food

C1: and going to the pharmacy for other essential items.

C1: Everything else is not a priority  
My health is.

C2: Everything else is not a priority  
My health is.

C1: I know that everyone's been saying "you're young you will be fine if you catch it" But I don't want to take that risk

C2: no one should want to take that risk

C1: if this pandemic has taught me anything thus far it's that

C1: one

C2: one

C1: I've become more aware of how far away six feet is from someone

C1: two

C2: two

C2: I've never realized how much I actually value the feeling of human touch.

C1: And three...

C1: I've never felt so alone

C2: I've never felt so alone

C1: even though I'M still at home with my family/

C2: /I wish I was right now...

C1: But that isn't the case for everyone

**(beat)**

*(C1 and C2 sigh simultaneously)*

C2: Here I am staring a blank walls , listening to the sound of my own voice every day and night. Having to rely on long distance phone calls just to know that my family is okay, and that I don't have to worry about them. Even though... I know they're more worried about me-

C1: Sitting behind a computer screen...

C2: sitting behind a computer screen...

C1: trying to get my exams done with limited resources at hand. Worried if I'm going to pass or fail. Those are the two options for me. *(beat)* I email my professors but it's usually days before I hear a reply and time is running out for me.

C1: All we have is time..

C2: All we have is time..

C2: Time to wait

C1: Time to breathe

C2: Time to think

C1:Hoping for things to get under control

C2: *(to C1)* Will things get under control?

*(beat)*

C1: *(to C2)* I'm not too sure...

C2: patiently waiting for life to return to normal

C1: or is this our new normal?

C2: *(to C1)* It just might be...

*(beat)*

C2: All I want to do is be home and hug my family. Eat a meal cooked by my mother, watch actions film with my father. But instead I'm fending for myself. *(beat)* I can't get a job, I'm running out of cash for food to eat and also running out of cash to pay for the apartment I had to rent due to the dorms on campus being shut down.

C1: I wasn't ready for this transition                      C2: I wasn't ready for this transition...

C1: but don't worry (*Looks at C2*) I'm here for you

C2: Really?

*(C1 nods reassuringly)*

C2: Thanks. (*beat*) I know I shouldn't be feeling the way that I do b-

C1: but your feelings are valid. We are all feeling a little alone. Distanced from the world, friends, family, everyone and everything.

C1: We are forced to live a life out  
of our comfort zone and jump into  
this reality of uncertainty.  
It's a big change that no one was...

C2: we are forced to live a life out  
of our comfort zone and jump into  
this reality of uncertainty.  
it is a big change that no one was..

C2: Expecting

C1: Prepared for, but don't worry... (*beat*) (*to C2*) We're in this together.

C1: Together, together, together  
We are in this together

C2: Together, together, together  
We are in this together

C2: although we are told to be apart

C1: separated

C2: Distanced we are still...

C1: (*Softly*) Together

C2: (*Softly*) Together

C1: We have each other

*(beat)*

C2: Our communities coming together to do what they must to ensure that everyone feels -

C1: like they have a home away from their home (*looks at C2*) where ever that might be.  
Minutes away, hours away, flights away.. You can always find a home somewhere, in someone.

*(C2 looks at C1 exchange a small smile)*

C2: That everyone has the support they need during these troubling times.

C1: Learning new forms of keeping in contact. Skype, Facebook, Zoom..

C2: Platforms that we used frequently have now given us better ways to connect with the people around us, far from us.

C1: We can even feel like we are watching a film with someone even though we might be

C2: *(to C1)* the We *ARE*...

C1: Distances apart

C2: Distances apart

*(beat)*

C1: But distanced apart we are all dealing with the same thing, and we know that this...

C1: is only temporary.

C2: is only temporary

C2: It might be around for a long time

C1: But we are doing our best to keep things feeling as normal and as familiar as we can. I've been trying to keep my mind occupied. Participating in online workshops. Learning a new skill like painting.

C2: I've been reading more, and doing things to better myself. I think of this whole thing now as a little ...

C1: Break

C2: Break.

C1: An opportunity to learn

C2: An opportunity to grow

C1: An opportunity to recharge  
And do the things that I've  
Always wanted to

C2: An opportunity to recharge  
and do the things that I've  
Always wanted to

C2 but never had the time to

C1: like being able to rest and recharge from the crazy school year. And taking the time to answer that important after school question of

C1: What's next?

C2: What's next?

C1: because I still don't know...

C2: *(to C1)* and that's okay

*(beat)*

C2: This pandemic has helped me to change my perspective. To look at things from a different point of view. It's taught me to take a bad situation and turn it into...

C1: Something...

C2: a little bit...

C1: Positive

C2: Positive?

C1: that letting something like this pandemic dictate your happiness-

C2: *(to C2)* It shouldn't dictate your happiness. There so many things around us to be grateful for

C1: so often, others see what's in front of our face

C2: What is life even supposed to be about? Fortune, fame, a big house?

C1: when speaking to man  
Lying on his death bed  
None of these answers are what  
He said  
Happiness, love, laughter.  
Are what we should seek

C2: When speaking to a man  
lying on his death bed  
none of these answers are what  
he said  
happiness, love, laughter  
are what we should seek

C1: Even when it does seem like there is a dark cloud above us.

C2: There's only a rainbow after the rain.

**Marissa Trott**

**Distance/ing**

C1: I was afraid

C2: I was afraid

C1: I was scared

C2: I was alone

C1: I felt so...

C1: Distant...

C2: Distant...

C2: but now...

C1: things aren't as bad as they seemed

C2: things aren't as bad as they seemed

*(C1 and C2 both pull out their phones as if they had gotten a notification \*it could be a sound cue or just a physical reaction)*

C1: One week with no new cases of Covid 19. You may now meet in small Social bubbles of up to 10 people.

C2: one week with no new cases of Covid 19. you may now meet in small Social bubbles of up to 10 people.