

Before entering the environment, each participant is given either a small box (see below) or a key, both of which have an explanatory tag (This instruction could also be repeated verbally by a performer upon the issuing of the box or key)

**Can you find your mate?**

**By this sound, and this sound alone, you will know your mate:**

**zzzzzz-zik-zik<sup>1</sup>**

**Listen carefully for it.**  
**By this sound, and this sound alone, your mate will know you:**

**zik-zik**

**When you think you have found your mate, make this call so your mate can recognise you.**

**Beware - the night is full of predators. If you move too noisily, if you make your call too loudly or too often, they will eat you.**

The environment is dimly lit, a nocturnal soundscape made of layer upon layer of faint, repeating noises and drones, which all together make an ambient noise that is just loud enough that a person might have to speak up to address a person not standing quite near. The synthetic, monochromatic environment is given colour by projections of images of undergrowth, shadowy and green, and the blue cast to the light. Large sheets and folds of synthetic materials, suggestive but not imitative of mega-scale undergrowth, tree-trunks and stones, ensure that the most of the environment is always hidden from view.

One or two performers, 'disguised' as participants, hide in the environment – they act as predators and will grab any participant who comes near and is moving and making their call with too little stealth.

Following instructions, the participants then make their way around the space, quietly calling out with their cricket noise as they listen out for the noise made by their own conspecific.

On finding their mate, the participants now have a box and a key – if they have indeed found the correct mate, the box can be opened, revealing it to be empty but for a small assemblage of leaves, twigs and soil, as well as a photograph of the insect both have been imitating, with a short description drawn from the scientific literature. After the box has been open for a few seconds, a speaker hidden within the box plays a recording of the actual cricket, allowing participants to hear the noise that they have unwittingly been imitating.

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<sup>1</sup> The sounds are linguistic transcriptions taken from the scientific literature on katydids (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) of North America. (Tinkham, 1944, p. 269; Hebard, 1925, p. 326; Scudder, 1868, p. 119)