Welcome to The Loop", the popularity contest and reality show about friendship, betrayal and (opt-in) love. Inspired by "The Circle", the larp explores our social media identities and contradictions.

In The Loop our characters will be contestants in a popularity reality show. They will live in apartments in the same building but will only speak by a social media platform called The Loop, where they will be able to chat, make silly tests and vote for the most popular kid on the block. The Larp is inspired by the contest "The Circle" by Netflix.

But not everyone is who they pretend to be. In The Loop, some profiles could be fictional online personas, known as catfishes.

The Loop is a three days Larp, played mostly by text chat. The gala will be a video chat and there might be very few other video chats.

Briefing

The briefing will be on Teams next Friday 19.15
After that, we will go to Discord.

Technology

How to use Discord
Discord is a freeware instant messaging and VoIP application. Discord specializes in text, image, video and audio communication between users in a chat channel. Discord runs on Windows, macOS, Android, iOS, Linux, and web browsers.

Customize your profile pic

To change your avatar on desktop, click the ⚙ in the lower left corner of the app, then select the Edit button under My Account, and upload an image!
If you're on mobile, swipe left to your channel view, and check out the tab bar at the bottom of your screen. The rightmost tab will take you to User Settings (it should look like your profile picture if you've added one, and a Discord logo if you haven't!). From there, tap on your profile avatar to upload a new image!

How to use text channels
Your server is made up of text channels and voice channels.

Text channels are separate spaces for talking over text. They keep conversations organized and give everyone plenty of room to talk.

You can react to other's messages, quote (reply) to their messages, edit your messages. Also send gifs or links.

Using @everybody you'll send a notification to everyone in that channel. You can also use @name to send a notification to that specific user.
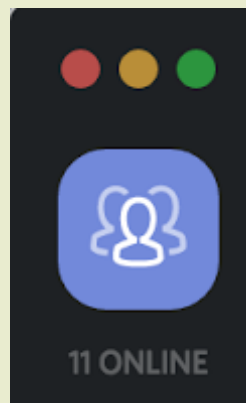
Channels during the game:
- Notifications: GM information.
- General. With all the contestants in your group.
- Off-game. You can chat as a player anytime you need it. It is the channel to calibrate.
- Walls. There is a channel for every character as if their Facebook wall or Instagram.
- Private chat with your producer. Only you can read that channel.
- Private groups. You can ask us to create private channels with the contestants you want to chat with.

[HowTo] Private Message Someone on Discord

1. Click on the person's username on the sidebar. A larger pop-up should appear next to the Right Sidebar.
2. In the small bar below their "Role", you can enter any **message** to send to the specific member. You can now access your recent conversations on the left sidebar.

How to Access Your Recent Conversations:

Click on the Friends Icon. This will display your friends and recent Direct Messages.

Group chats

Group chats are set up by adding friends to a direct message that you and someone on your friends list are having—completing this action generates a new blank group chat with the three of you. The person you were talking to, you, and the person that you added.

Once inside this new chat interface, anyone in the group can add users to it from their own friends list or change the name or title of the group chat to whatever they want it to be. The user limit for these arrangements is ten users.

We can also create specific channels for some of the players, you can ask us in-game.

The larp

Setting

Our world, in the urban US 2019, before the covid-19 pandemic. There will be contestants from everywhere in the world.

It is not an oppression setting and there is no secret plot about this contest being a government's experiment or an alien attack. It is nothing but a contest, a horrible reality show where no one is risking anything else but their popularity.

This means that the main themes are friendship and love but also appearances and social media.

What do I need to participate?

You will need a computer, a webcam, microphone, a wifi connection.

We will use Discord, we will give you a set account, you don't need to plan on anything regarding this but downloading the app into your phone. You can play while you're cooking or eating.

We will create a Discord account for you, that we will delete some days after the game.

Mandatory time slots
Friday - 19:15 CET to 23 CET - First day in-game
Saturday - 10 CET to 14 CET- Second day in-game
Saturday - 18 CET to 22 CET - Third day in-game
Sunday - 10 CET to 14 CET Fourth day in-game
Sunday - 18 CET to 22 CET Gala, debriefing and afterlarp party.

Some characters start the larp on different in-game days.
In the hours outside of the official slots it is forbidden to chat.

During the contest, there will be eliminations, based on the votes of the contestants. If your character is eliminated that would be the end of the game at that point, but you will be asked to join the Final Gala on Sunday (18 CET to 20 CET). Some eliminated players will have the choice to join another contestant group to have the chance to play more days.

Character creation
You will entirely make the character sheet. Your character's main goal will be winning the popularity contest at The Loop. They can consider playing a different person to win the contest or to make a point about society.

It is a design choice that no one knows who plays the different characters, that's why we ask you to look for a fake picture for your contestant profile.

You will need a profile picture for your character and your catfish (If you decide to play with a catfish). You could use one of these pages to create a fake picture: https://www.artbreeder.com/browse or https://thispersondoesnotexist.com/

If none of the pictures you find there are suitable for your character, you may also use publicly available stock photos or not too well known public figures/models from Instagram.

Style of play
This is a larp about relationships, feelings and characters; there are no puzzles or problem solving plots. You will make your own character and you will decide which of your contestant group members you want to chat more.

Rules

'Off game'
You're asking something as a player, or something is really real, or you can use it for calibration. For example: "Off-game: please don't speak about this theme".

'Off-game: how are you?'
This is an off-game question that can be said by an organiser or another player. It needs a reply.
- 'ok'. You can continue the scene.
- so-so or 'I don't know'. You need to ask the player if they need to stop the scene.
- 'Not ok'. Please stop the scene, ask the player what they need and ask if they want to speak with the orga.

'Off-game: true'
This means that what is said next it is true. An example: if we send a photo of our character, we can use any foto saying "Off-game:true" - the person in this photo is my character. Or if you are in a video call, you look like your profile pic or any other pic.

'The producers have asked me…'
This is an in-game alibi to do whatever you need to do for off-game reasons.
Anything that is related to the producers won't be questioned in-game, as would happen in any real tv show.

Example:
"The producers are asking me to leave the chat."
You can leave the chat anytime without giving any explanation.

Boundaries
We have decided to avoid sexual violence and child abuse. As the larp has a very open set of themes, we are going to ask you in the beginning to set some red lines for everyone in the larp. We can easily avoid any theme, except social media, catfishes or reality shows.
Also, remember that if there is a theme triggering you, you can say "off-game: please don't speak about this subject".

Calibration
Every timeslot has 10 minutes (or more) of calibration. We will start the game off-game, to speak , as players, about what is working and what is not with our playing group.

How does the contest work?

The contestants can chat during the in-game day at the general chats or make any private text chats they need (you can speak off-game with the other players about when is best for you). At some point there will be tests and eliminations.

Your wall
Also, every day you will be asked to post at your wall channel as if it was your Facebook wall. You can post a pic of anyone doing what you want to show in the pic and add "off-game:true: the person in the pic is my profile".

Tests and voting
Some days, we will give you a task to do: silly tests or voting. We will do it with time enough.

Eliminations
The most popular kids on the block will be the influencers, who will decide who gets blocked from The Loop.
The evicted character will have the chance to video chat with the contestant of their choice. Only the two contestants will know who was in the call.
The next day, the eliminated contestant will send a video to the group. At the video you can say there are catfishes at the contest but you can't say directly the name of the catfish.
The first contestant to be eliminated in each run will be given the choice to join one of the other groups, taking everybody's boundaries and themes into consideration.

Safety

When we close the sign up, we will make a cross check.
We will ask you to check the player's list and tell us:

1) You think that Person X is not a safe player and shouldn't be allowed to attend the larp.
2) You don't want to play in the same group as Person X.
We will definitely honor all requests of type 1 and 2.
Your responses will be treated in strictest confidence: only the organisers of the larp will have access to them and we will delete them after the larp -- we will definitely *not* tell Person X about them.

Code of conduct
People are more important than the larp. Safety is our priority. Respect all the game security rules.

Every person alone may set their boundaries and say what makes them comfortable. Please be clear when establishing your limits, both physical and emotional. Don't be afraid to modify your limits if you feel you need to during the game.

Consent must be freely given and vocalized, and is considered inviolable. Respect everyone's boundaries and don't tease, gossip about, ostracize or retaliate against someone who has set a consent boundary. In fact, we would like you to thank your fellow co-players for setting boundaries, as practicing active consent negotiations allows everyone to feel more comfortable.

Off-game harassment, abuse, or assault of any participant – or using the alibi of character to harass, abuse, or assault a player – is not tolerated. This includes any reference to the race, gender identity or presentation, sexuality, body size, conventional beauty, age, and experience of the player.

Each participant is responsible for their own actions; for reading, understanding and abiding by the Code of Conduct; and for the consequences of their actions to others.

Should anyone harm another participant, whether intended to do so or not, they must accept the responsibility of their own behavior. If you are informed about this kind of situation, you are expected to reflect on your own behavior and seek to change it. Don't deflect, blame, or become defensive if you are informed that you have harmed someone.

Safety team: Amalia Valero and Espe Montero. You can contact us using Discord or the email: hello@notonlylarp.com

All information given to the team is confidential. After the larp we will delete all personal information regarding flags and flagged individuals, as the activity that justified the data gathering is over.