

Dear Courage to Create Participants,

Welcome to The Courage to Create: Transforming Personal Narratives into Performance
The 2024 A.David & Nancy Tobin Seminar in the Arts |

Creating theater with a group of people is a very exciting and risky process—risky in the sense that it’s like a tightrope act—trying to get to the other side—a performance-without falling off the rope. Some have described it as building Frankenstein’s Monster—finding different parts from different people and hoping it all “walks and talks” in the end. This process is referred to as devised theatre.

Devised theatre is the process of creating a performance collaboratively. A group of people come together, sometimes with an idea in mind, sometimes with no starting point. The collective begins to create the work as a group. The ensemble serves as production research, designers, performers, etc. In the case of this class, the ensemble members are also the subject matter.

I love doing this kind of teaching because we all become the subject and the texts for the course. It can be a very exciting, enervating and, sometimes, transformative experience. I look forward to meeting you and welcome you to our shared adventure.

Cordially,

Bruce Levitt
Professor
Cornell Engaged Scholar Award 2016

Facilitator, Arts, Justice and Safety Coalition

<https://www.theconfinedarts.org/arts-justice-safety-coalition.html>

<https://www.theconfinedarts.org/claiming-the-justice-narrative-project-overview.html>

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