

"TRANS-FORMATION"

by
Paul Tonnes

featuring
members of the Class of Trans

FINAL
November 7, 2013

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CAST

USHER/READER (*Christie, Joe, Ken, and Tara one person per performance*): greets audience, arranges audience, reads poem, signals end of performance. Wears street clothes and a name tag that says USHER.

ACOLYTE (*Carol*): Carries sacred objects, directs audience participation, and assists DIRECTOR. Wears a white robe with a Key around her neck.

DIRECTOR (*Paul*): Raises/lowers bodies, flips switches. Wears a white robe with a belt of tags.

AUDIENCE MEMBER (randomly chosen by Acolyte): chooses tag from box, accepts tags.

[The Gathering]

{All lights extinguished in the ARC, except for the overhead spots illuminating the 5 bodies hanging from the ceiling. On the floor in the performance space is a Wax Box filled with color coded Tags, several small Wax Bowls of Water, two Canvas Napkins, a small wire clipper, and a Control Unit. The ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR are NOT to be seen during the gathering.}

USHER/READER greets audience and encourages them to gather around around the performance space, leaving a gap in the audience for the ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR to approach the performance space. The audience should remain outside the square demarked on the floor. USHER/READER whispers instructions to audience, encouraging a contemplative and

reverent atmosphere. As the ACOLYTE approaches the performance space the USHER/READER recedes into the audience.

[The Selection]

ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR slowly approach performance space with a Large Wax Bowl. ACOLYTE sets bowl down inside the performance space. DIRECTOR positions himself near Control Unit.

ACOLYTE picks up Wax Box and approaches an Audience Member at random. ACOLYTE signals or whispers to the Audience Member to choose one Tag from the Wax Box. ACOLYTE remembers who this Audience Member is because this person will be involved again later in the performance. The Tag is brought to the DIRECTOR.

DIRECTOR matches the Tag to the correct body and lowers the body to the floor. DIRECTOR attaches wires to the body, and raises the body off the floor. DIRECTOR returns to the control unit, kneeling.

Meanwhile, ACOLYTE begins to walk in a circle around the hanging bodies. ACOLYTE holds onto the Wax Key around her neck. Then slowly, as she is walking, takes it off her neck and wraps the twine around her fist, holding tightly to the Key.

[The Transformation and Reading]

ACOLYTE finishes her circle, stops in front of the DIRECTOR, unwinds the twine and offers the director the Key in her outstretched palms. DIRECTOR takes Key.

ACOLYTE positions the Wax Bowl under the chosen body being sure to use the Plumb Line hanging from the body to ensure correct alignment. ACOLYTE pours water from the Small Wax Bowls into the Large Wax Bowl. Sits near DIRECTOR.

DIRECTOR puts key in Control Unit, turning on the device. DIRECTOR flips the switches on the Control Unit commencing

the melting process. This will probably take 6 - 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, ACOLYTE signals the USHER/READER to read the poem which is read from their position in the audience. One (or two) poems will be read at each performance.

The poems are:

'IV. The Dead' by Rupert Brooke & 'Orange Berries Dark Green Leaves' by John Taggart, both read by **Christie**.

'Little Father' by Li-Young Lee and read by **Tara**.

'Alteration Finds' by Geoffrey Brock read by **Ken**.

'from Quarantine' by Malachi Black, read by **Joe**.

After the poem is read silence is kept. The USHER/READER encourages the audience to be silent.

When the melting process is complete the DIRECTOR switches off the Control Unit and removes Key.

ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR arise. DIRECTOR gives Key back to ACOLYTE who places it around her neck. ACOLYTE stands off to side.

[The distribution]

DIRECTOR approaches body and snips off the tag hanging from the body. This tag is paired with the original tag (from the Wax Box) tied together with twine, and given to the ACOLYTE. DIRECTOR kneels down near the Large Wax Bowl.

ACOLYTE presents both tags to the Audience Member who made the selection. Tags are pressed into the Audience Members hands, if possible. ACOLYTE returns to the Large Wax Bowl and kneels.

ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR scoop out the melted wax from the water in the Wax Bowl. Bits of Wax are broken off into small pieces and placed on the Napkins. Enough Bits of Wax must be made for each audience member to get a piece.

ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR each carry a Napkin and distribute Bits of Wax to the audience, pressing it into their hands if possible.

[The Exit]

ACOLYTE and DIRECTOR return Napkins to the floor near the Wax Bowl and slowly exit the performance space. They remain hidden while in costume.

{Lights come up in the ARC}

USHER/READER thanks people for coming.

[Post Exit]

While back in street clothes it is OK for DIRECTOR, ACOLYTE, and USHER/READER to mingle with the Audience if desired.