

FREELANCER'S JEST or SORRY I'M A FUCK UP

**Composed by Sharmi Basu
Performed by The Living Earth Show
For Affirmative Action**

Notes: Experiments in Somatics and accountability

Tech Specs:

1. **Materials:** 2 buckets – one of ice water and one of very hot water (not luke warm), 2 chairs, 2 microphones (dynamic)
2. **Materials:** 5 halogen light bulbs of different levels of fluorescence/wattage, electric guitar, amplifier, balloons, various sizes of bells to be attached to balloons, stereo pair condenser mics facing audience
3. **Materials:** tape piece (into mixer / speaker / pa), vibraphones, dynamic microphone, loop pedal

MOVEMENT 1: WHEN IS IT EMOTIONAL LABOR, REALLY?

Intent: An experiment in Somatics and accountability

Time: However long it takes

Materials: 2 buckets – one of ice water and one of very hot water (not luke warm), 2 chairs, 2 microphones. **ANDY GETS COLD, TRAVIS GETS HOT (but also u can try switching)**

Practice: Two players with two chairs and two buckets face each other. Players walk to chairs in unison. Each player puts their feet in a bucket, one person in hot and one in cold. The players will answer a series of prompts.

Answer Individually:

Prompt 1: Describe in detail a moment in which you were deeply wounded by someone. This should be a moment that shaped how you relate to people for the rest of your life.

Answer Together:

Prompt 2: Describe the experience of describing this experience.

Answer Individually:

Prompt 3: Did you ever have any resolution? Describe what that was or was not.

Answer Together:

Prompt 4: Describe the experience of describing this experience.

Answer Individually:

Prompt 5: Describe in detail a moment in which you deeply wounded someone. This should be a moment that you imagine shaped how another person relates to other people for the rest of their lives.

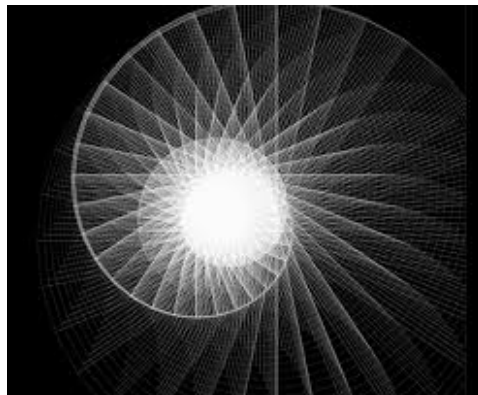
Answer Together:

Prompt 6: Did you provide any resolution? Describe what that was or was not.

Answer Individually:

Prompt 7: Describe the experience of describing this experience.

Things to think about: Accountability starts at the micro-level. Trust is built through small moments of love and connection and broken through day-to-day grievances and misgivings. Abuse is like an avalanche, sit with what it means to be truly accountable to your actions, and think about what you need in your accountability process. Think about how that might differ based on race, gender, class background, etc.



MOVEMENT 2: MAKE A WISH OR GIVE UP

WHAT IS THE AUTHORITY OF WHITENESS?

Time: 2 to 6 minutes

Materials: 5 fluorescent light bulbs of different sizes levels of fluorescence (ranging from very large to medium), electric guitar, amplifier, balloons, various sizes of bells to be attached to balloons, stereo pair condenser mics facing audience

Travis (Drone with pickup): Light bulbs of different sizes, Drone in D, mostly with the body of the guitar. The main objective is to pick up the frequencies and noise coming from the light bulbs.

Andy: Blows up balloons, engages with audience by asking individuals if they would like to make a wish. Be sure to ask what their wish is and have them whisper it in your ear.

If audience member is white: Pop the balloon and say, "sorry"

If the audience member is POC: Tie a bell to the balloon. If their wish is feasible, announce that their wish will come true and throw the balloon. If their wish is not (like world peace or something) say that you are sorry but you do not have the power to make their wish come true and give them the ballon.

Things to think about: Is this a situation where there is a sense of authority? Why or why not? If so, how does it feel to have a false sense of authority? How can the process of accountability be shaped by that authority?

Both players: Allow space between questions, improvise with depth and space.



MOVEMENT 3: TIRED

Tape piece plays

Andy plays vibraphone improvising with the arpeggio in the tape piece.

Travis makes 20 second loop with long delay saying the following things (the words should overlay):

Accountability

a perpetrator is accountable to the survivor(s)
a perpetrator is accountable to their communities
a perpetrator is accountable to themselves

(Mis)Understanding Abuse

I have heard people say they didn't get involved because the survivor never asked them for help.
I have heard people say that they don't need or want to know what is going on in their friends' romantic relationships.

I have heard people say that they don't understand how a survivor could have let it happen, or how such a strong feminist could have allowed such abuse.

I have heard people say that the abuse must not have been that bad because the survivor went back to the relationship with the perpetrator one or more times. (Statistics show that on average in this country, it takes a survivor seven attempts before leaving a domestic violence situation for good.)

I have heard people say that the perpetrator has been around so long and is such a valuable part of anarchist organizing that no one wants to kick them out of the scene or sever their long-standing friendships.

I have heard people say that they didn't really know what to do, so they figured someone better equipped would sort it out.

I have heard people say that the survivor and their supporters should stop being so divisive, stop trying to spread such hate against the perpetrator. I have even heard people argue that there could be no other explanation than that the survivor must be working for the Feds.

I have heard people say that they never really liked either the survivor or the perpetrator that much anyway.

Abuse is not mutual. Abuse is not simply about two people needing to come to the table to work things out.

People who have perpetrated harm often resist responsibility for that harm by blaming others, lying, evading the conversation, damaging the credibility of the person they've harmed, or lashing out at anyone who asks them to take accountability for their actions. We have all, at some point, struggled to admit we were wrong, or acted in a hurtful way. Before I can acknowledge someone else's experience of my actions (even if the offense is as small as not washing my share of the dishes, or accidentally saying something hurtful) I may have to work through protective layers within myself.

Travis can choose other things to say from the text. All text in this section is from here:

<https://anarchalibrary.blogspot.com/2012/04/thinking-through-perpetrator.html>

<http://feministactionsupportnetwork.tumblr.com/accountability>

Loop should be layered; loop level and live vocal level can be adjusted.



Things to think about: Accountability is confusing and starts from a micro level and avalanches often into creating new cycles of abuse. Accountability can seem as though it is a mutual growth process but if not taken seriously often results in a cyclical newly traumatizing loop that is hard to decipher.