

# VOICES/ Lives

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## *The Setting:*

*The space is divided into 6 square quadrants, 2 deep and 3 wide. Each scene is played exclusively in one, sometimes two of the quadrants, numbered 1-5 in this script. Number six denotes the cube, explained next..*

*The middle, back quadrant contains a six foot cube that can be rotated, climbed on, and walked through. One side is a large projection screen, onto which images can be rear projected. Opposite this side is an open side. The remaining two sides each contain a functional door and a ladder that allows actors to climb up and play on the top surface.*

*At top of show, select props are Carefully placed on the cube and the surrounding area.*

*The play proceeds with minimal set and costume changes. Actors transform largely thru physicality, with just suggestions of time, place and character.*

## *Pre-Show:*

*Just as show is about to begin, we hear the following:*

Voice 2: That's so not true!

Voice 1: Well I think a tale told often enough, can become the truth.

Voice 2: Like selective memory?

Voice 1: Memory colors reality.

Voice 2: Does that make it more true, or less true?

Voice 1: Truth is relative to the moment.

Voice 2: Isn't a story nothing but a series of momentary truths?

Voice 1: Yes, but the sum of truths isn't always the complete story. It can't include everything.

Voice 2: So truth can't be pinned down, then?

Voice 1: It is more like the universe, expanding and contracting, creating the space that it occupies.

Voice 2: Do some truths cease to exist?

Voice 1: Yes.

Voice 2: So nothing is universal?

Voice 1: I don't know about that. Shhhh. Watch.

## **SCENE ONE: Opening Sequence**

[Cantate Domino begins.]

*Stage in darkness. Actors enter*

P: Oh, it's you.

H: You were expecting me?

P: Oh, well, no. I thought I recognized you I guess.

H: I must have one of those personalities. Familiar.

P: Yes, You do. Hmmm.



Son: So you'd rather have nothing then?

Master: I say whatever I like.

[Screen goes dark]

*Holly and Pete step aside to 2 and 4 and don glasses*

*Cube remains at screen side*

## **SCENE TWO:**

### **Long Trail Home**

P: A long time ago, along the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee, white families had cabins scattered here and there, far apart from each other and deep in the woods.

H: Once upon a time, after white people had been here long enough for any good relationships with the Indians to have gone sour, there were two families.

P: Two neighboring families, one with a son, one with a daughter, made a marriage pact.

H: Neighbors they were, in what is now Tennessee. It happens that the eldest daughter of the one and the eldest son of the other were close enough in age, and they fell in love and were promised to each other.

P: They got married when she was 16. She already had two kids, and she was pregnant with the third when it happened.

H: She was still a teenager, and not yet married when it happened.

P: The young husband went to town one day, to do business. The young woman stayed home with her brother who was visiting.

H: One day, the girl was away from the cabin, drawing water or picking berries, I don't remember which.

P: The week before, some settlers had raided the First Nations villages nearby, and killed many people, including women and children. They took others for slaves.

H: The white people had just killed some more Indians, because you know what they used to say about the only good Indians. Anyway, while the girl was out, picking berries, the Indians raided her home. Everyone in her family was killed, and her house was burned to the ground.

P: She was at the house, but with her man away, she couldn't defend it, and her brother and her children were killed.

H: She ran back to the house, where she was taken captive.

P: The Shawnee, seeing the chance to replace one of their lost tribal members, took her over 800 miles away, to Ohio.

H: It was 1000 miles.

P: A Shawnee man then claimed her as his new wife.

H: She became another man's woman.

P: After a while though, she missed her home, and was determined to go back. So one day, she packed up a few things, and left.

H: For a year she mourned for her home, until finally she found the opportunity to steal away. She left without anything, no map, no weapons, no food.

P: Using the Ohio River as a guide, she trekked 800 miles back to Tennessee.

H: Somehow, she traveled over a 1000 miles of forest she didn't know, with just the Ohio River as a guide.

P: In winter, exhausted, but overjoyed, she finally came upon familiar land, and trudged toward home.

H: Finally, starving, ragged, and barely alive, she found the familiar trail near her home. It was winter and her bare feet broke through the crusted snow.

P: She made it up the trail, and back to her house, where her husband, surprised but overjoyed, nursed her back to health.

H: She made it up the trail and was close to her house, when she met up with her betrothed. He was nice, but not very loving, and they walked for a ways to where no one would hear them, and then he killed her, because she was tainted.

P: No he did not. She had four more children and lived to be 83 years old.

H: Yes he did! They say her ghost still haunts the trail, and helps lost travelers. *(looks at pete)* There isn't always a happy ending, you know.

P: They died together. Old. So there.

*Holly and Pete turn and walk upstage to 1 and 5 respectively.*

VOICE 1: Well, the story as I heard it was a little different than that.

VOICE 2: But that's how stories are. . . unique to each teller.

**SCENE THREE:  
THE BULLY AND THE NERD**

*Each dons hardhat, collects lunchbox/ bag at 1 and 5  
They climb cube, see each other, hesitate, decide to sit anyway. Bully faces front, nerd faces SL*

*Nerd eats and reads, Bully throws peanuts at him  
Bully steals Nerd's chips several times, till Nerd moves his bag away.  
Bully crushes Nerd's bag  
Nerd considers leaving, but rotates from to sit next to Bully instead  
Nerd offers mushed sandwich as a peace offering  
Bully takes sandwich, and wipes it on Nerd's back and clothes  
Nerd goes to leave, Bully pulls her by hair and brings her back  
Nerd sits and reads out loud, Bully protests, dialogue to shut up  
Bully finally steals book  
Nerd attacks him immediately, Bully pushes back and rolls Nerd to back plank  
Nerd grabs for book 2 times, but Bully pulls it away, on 3rd time, he gets it and is pulled back to 1st plank  
Bully plays keep away with book. Nerd knees him in groin  
Bully doubles over in pain, Nerd pummels his back  
Bully hits Nerd in stomach with the book  
Nerd grabs book, falls back, flounders, Bully grabs her arm, saves her, then punches her nose  
Nerd does blood smear to face  
Nerd bull charges Bully, grapples. Bully hits and pulls blood pieces from Nerd  
They separate, nerd woozy, but he comes back for more  
Both fall to ground, locked  
Bully stands, kicks Nerd 3 times  
Nerd falls over edge, grabs Bully on way down  
Bully also falls*

Voice 1: Some people.

Voice 2: What do you mean?

Voice 1: They just refuse to get along.

Voice 2: Weren't they ridiculous?

Voice 1: I hate stubborn people.

Voice 2: How hard is it to just be nice?

Voice 1: Oh. Here comes someone.

Voice 2: Does he look familiar to you?