

### **Focus Group Participants**

Jean Barberis  
Yakov Barton  
Juan Betancurth  
Christopher Berg  
Mikela Bjork  
Stefano Boselli  
Benjamin Cohen  
Angela Conant  
David Court  
Jonathan Ehrenberg  
Jason Eppink  
Roger Gaitan  
Jesse Gammage  
Clay Hapaz  
David Greg Harth  
Kara Hearn  
Felicity Hogan  
Abbie Hurewitz  
Richard Jochum  
Clarinda Mac Low  
T.J. Mannix  
Alicia McDole  
Marianna de Nadal  
Natalia Nakazawa  
Ben Retig  
Jamie Rivera  
Laura Schneider  
Max Sherwood  
Dasha Shishkin  
Elisabeth Smolarz  
Maya Suess  
Kendra Sullivan  
Nathaniel Sullivan  
Sarah Cameron Sunde  
Sally Szwed  
William Tucci  
Melissa Welch

### **Videography:**

Kara Hearn  
Marianna de Nadal  
Elisabeth Smolarz

### **Dramaturgy:**

Stebos

### **Consultant:**

Sarah Cameron Sunde

### **Volunteers:**

Tova Carlin  
Laura Schneider

### **Thesis Committee:**

Becca Albee  
Chelsea Knight  
Clarinda Mac Low  
Edward Miller  
Hajoe Moderegger  
Mark Addison Smith

### **And a very BIG THANK YOU to:**

Analisa Bacall, Lauren Bierly, Tyler Coburn,  
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Gray, Bernice Levy, Doug Levy, Ron Levy,  
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Theaterlab

COME BACK (via Five Stage Approach) is  
Michelle Levy's thesis presentation for the  
Digital and Interdisciplinary Art Practice MFA  
Program (DIAP) at The City College of NY

May 5th, 7:30 PM, Abrons Art Center, NYC  
May 13th, 8:00 PM, Theaterlab, NYC

**Michelle Levy, 2015**

COME BACK

165 Eileen Way, Syosset, NY 11791

VIDEO PRESS RELEASE TRAINING

TAPE 1

92 mins.



# COME BACK

(via Five Stage Approach)

Michelle Levy



*Dear Audience:*

*Come Back...* marks the return to a stalled artistic research project I had been pursuing about my father, named (by him) “The Comeback.”

This current investigation has two narratives. The first is the story of Ron “Lucky” Levy, a once successful motivational salesman who has, sadly fallen down on his luck. The second is my process of sharing the story with the help of a tool named (by me) “The Five Stage Approach to Creating an Effective Artistic Experience.”

Through a series of small performance “focus groups” organized over the past five months, I have been collectively revisiting a brief “comeback” moment in my father’s life, asking: What does it mean to come back?

While today’s audience is too large to behave as a “real” “focus group,” this is an experiment in scale — the material shared aligns with the more intimate “focus group” presentations. As the “focus groups” helped determine what happens today, it is my hope that what takes place today will inform next week’s performance, and the results from next week will inform the future manifestations.

In other words, you, the audience, are an essential part of this story.

To answer the question you may be asking: My father is alive. He is aware that I am creating a work about him. Will he see it? I don’t know. This explains my delicate approach in exposing the story slowly. I do not feel doubts about what I share, as his story is my story, and it is very much mine to tell. But there are some aspects that are sensitive and I wish to use discretion regarding how these aspects make their way into the world.

You will be seeing footage from my father’s golden age as a sales executive. He has offered this unique archive to me proudly, and I proudly share it with you. Representations of him in present day will be through audio only, and through the imagination of everyone in this room.

Thank you for your time, openness and generosity towards this process.

- Michelle