Focus Group Participants

Jean Barberis Yakov Barton Juan Betancurth **Christopher Berg** Mikela Bjork Stefano Boselli Beniamin 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, Jonathan Durham, Taraneh Fazeli, Spalding Gray, Bernice Levy, Doug Levy, Ron Levy, Dan Liberatore, Jennifer Liu, Adam Wade, Joe Winter

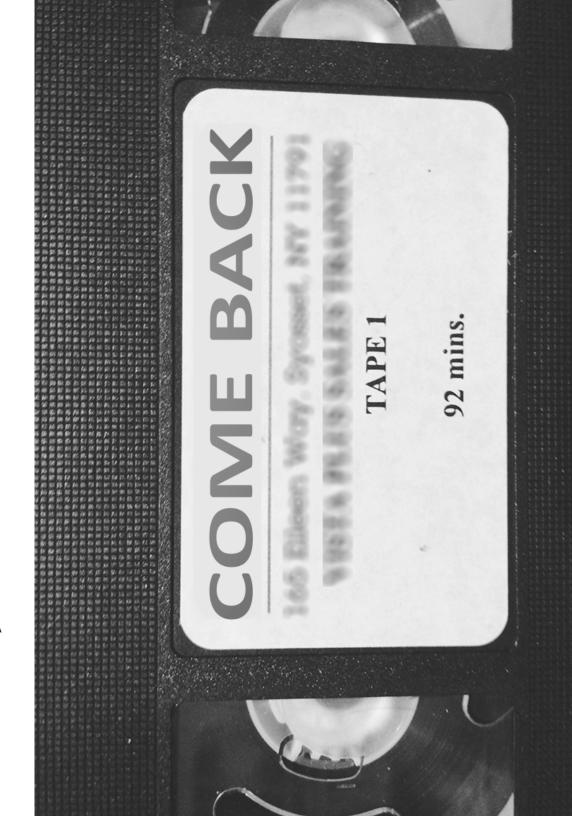
And to:

Abrons Art Center Connor Fund Study Abroad Fellowship The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts DIAP MFA at The City College of New York Magnet Theater Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London 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

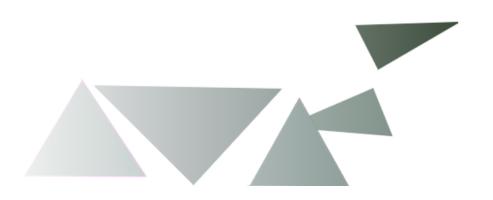




COME BACK

(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