

### Final Projects: NO WORDS PROJECT

For your final project, you will work in small groups (5 members) to create short devised theater pieces that do not use dialogue or words.

Each group will focus on one of these words: HERO, HOME, LOVE, REVENGE using objects that each group member has brought that has a personal connection to the word.

The best pieces will transport us out of our “ordinary” world. They will have emotional resonance, be polished and well-rehearsed, and show stylistic coherence. They will give us some experience of what the word means to the members of your group.

Remember: you are not telling a traditional story. Rather, you are crafting an *experience*, a live event, using bodies, sound, space, movement, and images.

Like the Solo Performance projects, we will rehearse and share these presentations in “sections” of half the class (30 students each). However, there is no “first draft” presentation.

Parameters:

- Must be devised – that is, created and performed collectively by everyone in the group. (It’s all right for one member to “perform” by running technical cues at times)
- Must be approximately 5-7 minutes long. (8-minute max)
- Must NOT use any spoken language, dialogue, or words (though you can use vocalizations, sounds, or other noises)
- Must use at least one object from someone in the group (though you can use all of them)
- Must use music. We encourage the projects to be entirely sound-tracked.
- Must be costumed – that is, everyone who performs must be wearing something chosen or created especially for performance that day.
- Must use your bodies to create movements/images that have emotional resonance. You can use physical theater tools such as tableaux, freeze frames, mirroring, statues, “flocking,” repetition of gesture, etc.
- Must be the product of at least two hours of group rehearsal time outside of the class time below.

You are encouraged to use space in an interesting way rather than a traditional “frontal” performer/audience relationship.

### Schedule

Tu Nov 14: Prompt assigned; breakdown into class halves and small groups, choose themes.

Th Nov 16: Bring in objects related to theme; devising in small groups

Tu Nov 28: Devising in small groups

Th Nov 30: Devising in small groups

[Nov 30-Dec 5]: *Recommended for out of class rehearsals.*

Tu Dec 5: PRESENTATIONS

**ASSESSMENT:** 200 points. The projects will be assessed on the basis of how well “they transport us out of our ordinary world by evoking the feeling of the word; have emotional resonance; are polished and well-rehearsed; and show stylistic coherence.” Normally, everyone in the group receives the same grade. However, we will have you complete individual evaluations that allow you to give feedback on your own contributions to the group and those of your peers. We reserve the right to give individualized project grades. **Unexcused absence/lateness during the devising process will also affect your individual grade for the project, as well affecting your overall Attendance Grade as given on the syllabus.**