

Notes for Feb 17th ArtPop Meeting with Jess & Jay

First, I wanted to talk about the possibility of relaxing our expectations to write and perform a comprehensive script. Given our limited student involvement and my own personal commitments for the time around the end of the semester, it will be exceptionally difficult to organize much in the way of a true rehearsal process for the project.

Instead, if our priority is to coordinate an event that is able to activate an underutilized campus space, I would like to dedicate more effort to developing the infrastructure for an event that takes place outside of the boundaries of our show.

I think, in order to really engage people outside of the typical target audience, audience participation will be incredibly important for keeping people around. I think it is important that:

- The performance remains flexible to varying audience attention spans and prior time commitments.
 - How can we encourage people to stay for a full 8(?) scenes without forcing them?
 - Ideas: - Allow the show to be sort of self guided, with events falling out of any particular order. - Keep each scene sort of self contained, so that audience members who complete 3/8 scenes are able to walk away feeling like they had a complete experience. - Scenes are adaptable, and can begin or end depending on audience's willingness to participate.
- The performance is interesting and marketable to non-theatre people and interested audience members will be able to convince their couch potato friends to come hang out.
 - How can we engage membership of other clubs to come by and visit?
 - What can we offer outside of the performance to keep people engaged?
 - Ideas: - **Live music. Hire a band?** - The Baxby's, UMass local rock band.
 - Have student vendors. - **Amherst Conscious Community Creator's Market** - Potluck - Tag sale + Clothing Swap - Ecstatic Dance - Acrobatics - Chai Ceremony + Meditation
 - **Utilize mountain bike course**
 - I honestly have no idea how to pull this one off.
 - Reach out to various student communities
 - **Multidisciplinary Psychadelic Club**
 - **Cannabis Education Commission (CEC)**
 - **UMass Mountain Bike Club**
 - **WMUA - Campus Radio (The intersection of art + music)**

Probably lots of room for deliberation there. I'll leave that at that.

Alright, now for more conceptual devising stuff.

This is literally just a list of ideas / visuals / concepts that came to mind. Hope some (or any) of these are helpful.

**1. UMass Rogues:

Definition of *rogue*

(Entry 1 of 4)

1 : [vagrant](#), [tramp](#)

2 : a dishonest or worthless person : [scoundrel](#)

3 : a mischievous person : [scamp](#)

Idea: a group of radical University of Massachusetts secessionists have declared their independence from the campus and claimed Orchard Hill as their own.

A fantastic cultish social experiment to be initiated on Wednesday April 13th with a grand Spring festival.

They might be hedonistic idealists who only believe in three things: **fire, freedom, and fun.**

Inspo:

Three Festivals of the Wiccan Calander from [pagangrimoire.com](#)

3. Ostara (March 19-23)

The spring equinox ([Ostara](#)) is a holiday of renewal and abundance. For Wiccans, this is when the Goddess represents her Maiden aspect and when the god has become a young man. It's a great time for planting seeds and celebrating the fertile spring.

4. Beltane/May Day (April 30 – May 1)

When I was growing up, I always thought [Beltane](#) was the coolest, but that's because I thought of it only as the holiday in which you lit a bonfire and went and made love in the woods. May Day is also celebrated by decorated and dancing around the maypole (representing the male aspect). And, it's believed that, like at Samhain, the veil between the living and the spirit world is thinner. For Wiccans, this Sabbat is also a holiday of love and romance and when the God and Goddess come together.

5. Litha/Midsummer (June 19-23)

The summer solstice, or [Litha](#), is when the days are the longest. Nature is at its peak and the sun is at the highest point in the sky. Pagans give thanks for all of this and at this time, ask for a rich harvest. For Wiccans, this is also when the god is at his full power.

Ideas for scenes:

- tree climber! - a weirdo in a tree has lost his finger, and is recruiting the occasional passerby to help him find it! - He may / may not throw acorns at people and laugh - **i know just the man for the job**
- stone soup! - the movement's leader is making soup in a cauldron in the open spot on the hill - he/she/they could be doing any number of things - make people sing/chant ancient fire rites to keep the fire going! - forcing people to gather stones for the stone soup! - maybe its a squirrel soup, and maybe the leader needs squirrels for the soup!
- a hearth fire - heavily dependant on what the fire marshal says - wood gathering project to engage audience
- ecstatic dance - we could literally just have some psychotic person running around inspiring people to dance - not sure what purpose that serves except to incite chaos - sounds fun though?
- drum circle - exactly what it sounds like - can we get a ton of drums? - not sure how that would conflict with a live band
- possible conflict with gang of mountain bikers in the woods - conservative foil to the radical umass secessionists - contrasting environmental stuards - represent responsible land use practices (or the opposite idk)

Lastly (and this is probably completely crazy)

We could advertise not as an official UMass event, but actually pretend like we're the ones organizing this secession.

*"SICK OF THE STATUS QUO? SAY NO!"

*"JOIN UMASS SEPERATISTS ON ORCHARD HILL APRIL 13TH."

OR

*"WANTED: PARTICIPANTS FOR INSANE PSYCHADELIC STUDY IN HUMAN COMPASSION"

"ALL INTERESTED SHOULD ASTRAL PROJECT INTO THE UMASS OBSERVATORY ON ORCHARD HILL FOR MORE INFORMATION"

we could even stage a dissapearance

These are all just ideas and I wanted to write them out to you guys ahead of time to make the most of our meeting today (in like an hour, lol)

All the best,

Matt Carroll

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HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS MAN IN YOUR DREAMS?





**In January 2006 in New York,
the patient of a well-known psychiatrist draws the face of a
man that has been repeatedly appearing in her dreams.
In more than one occasion that man has given her advice on
her private life.
The woman swears she has never met the man in her life.**

**That portrait lies forgotten on
the psychiatrist's desk for a
few days until one day another
national recognizes that face**

**patient recognizes that face
and says that the man has
often visited him in his dreams.
He also claims he has never
seen that man in his waking life.**

**The psychiatrist decides to
send the portrait to some of his
colleagues that have patients
with recurrent dreams.
Within a few months,
four patients recognize the
man as a frequent presence
in their own dreams.
All the patients refer to him as
THIS MAN. And more than 2000
people have claimed to see
this man in their dreams.**