

THESPIAN TROUPE 1429

LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING...

- every class always starts with feelings & intentions
(because that is where you start your character's journey when you portray them onstage. what are they FEELING? and what is their INTENTION? and WHY are they in this scene?)
- how are you feeling (three words or less)
- what is your intention for this meeting?
- & WHY are you a part of Troupe 1429?

LEON THEATRE

WHO IS
MRS. MARSHALL

WHY IS
SHE HERE?



WHAT
ARE WE
GOING
TO DO
THIS
YEAR?

CORE BELIEF #1: STORIES CHANGE THE WORLD







Liebig

ORPHEUS - 3. *Orpheus als Argonaut.*

LIEBIG PRODUCTEN vergemakkelijken de keuken.

ak verboden.

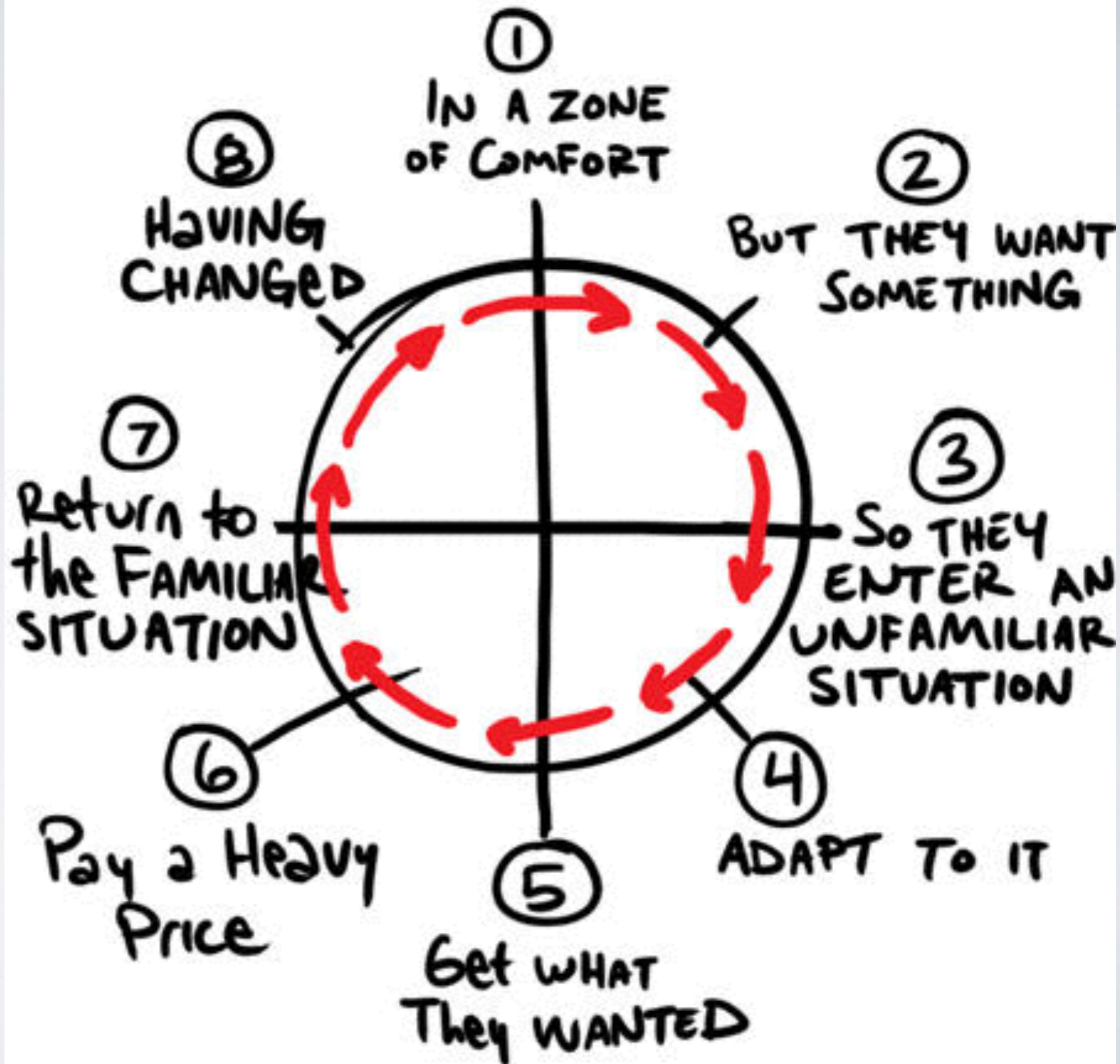
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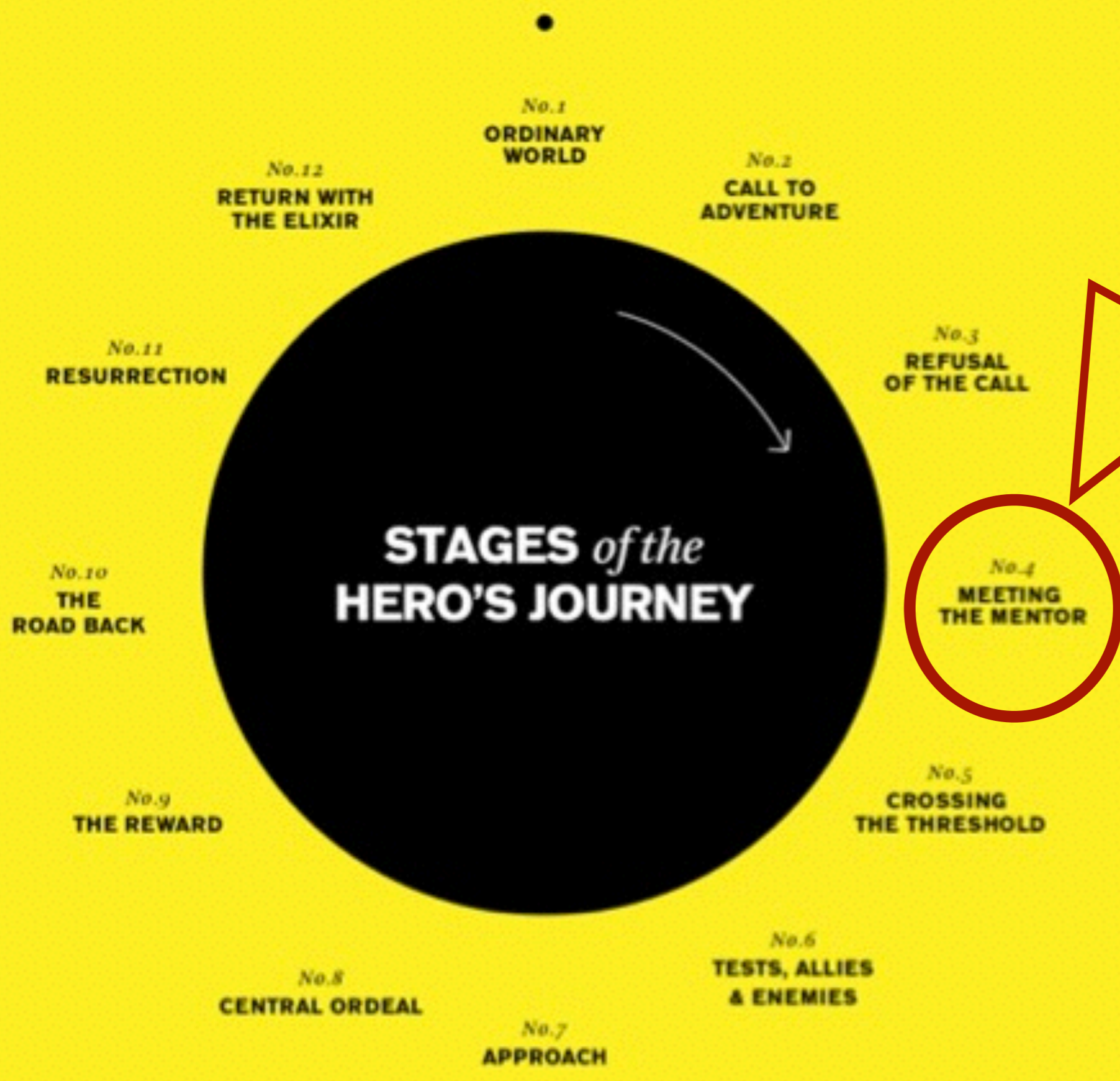
- “And once you live a good story, you get a taste for a kind of meaning in life, and you can't go back to being normal; you can't go back to meaningless scenes stitched together by the forgettable thread of wasted time.”
- “If the point of life is the same as the point of a story, the point of life is character transformation. ...If the character doesn't change, the story hasn't happened yet. And if story is derived from real life, if story is just condensed version of life then life itself may be designed to change us so that we evolve from one kind of person to another. ... we were designed to live through something rather than to attain something, and the thing we were meant to live through was designed to change us. The point of a story is the character arc, the change.” ”
- “Fear isn't only a guide to keep us safe; it's also a manipulative emotion that can trick us into living a boring life ... the great stories go to those who don't give in to fear.”
- **“We live in a world where bad stories are told, stories that teach us life doesn't mean anything and that humanity has no great purpose. It's a good calling, then, to speak a better story. How brightly a better story shines. How easily the world looks to it in wonder. How grateful we are to hear these stories, and how happy it makes us to repeat them.”**
- “Every creative person, and I think probably every other person, faces resistance when they are trying to create something good...The harder the resistance, the more important the task must be.”
- But we spend years actually living those stories, and expect our lives to be meaningful. The truth is, if what we choose to do with our lives won't make a story meaningful, it won't make a life meaningful either”
- — *Donald Miller, A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life*

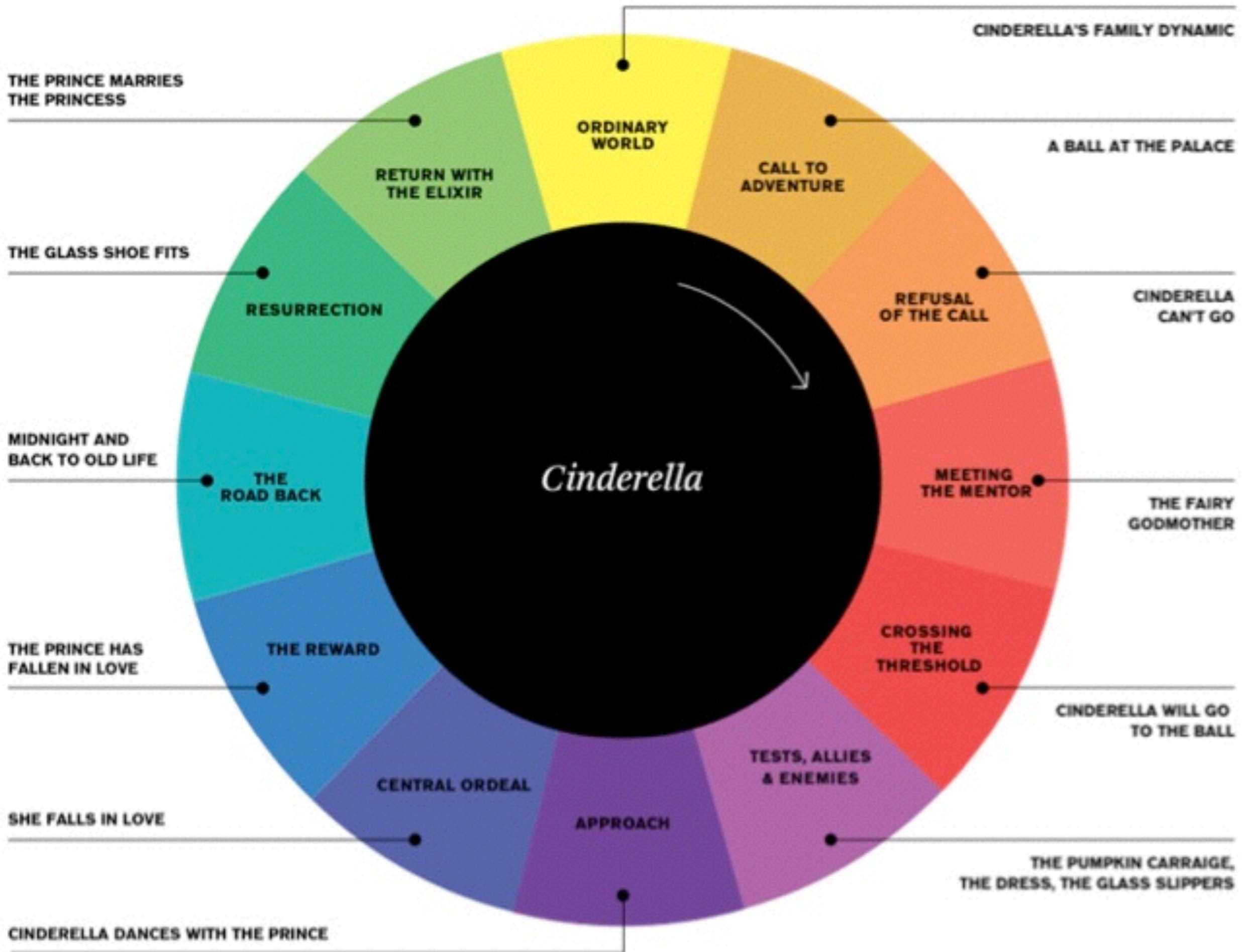
What if the GREAT stories aren't just in books...

What if we lived our lives like they were GREAT stories...

like we were on the hero's journey?







CORE BELIEF #2:

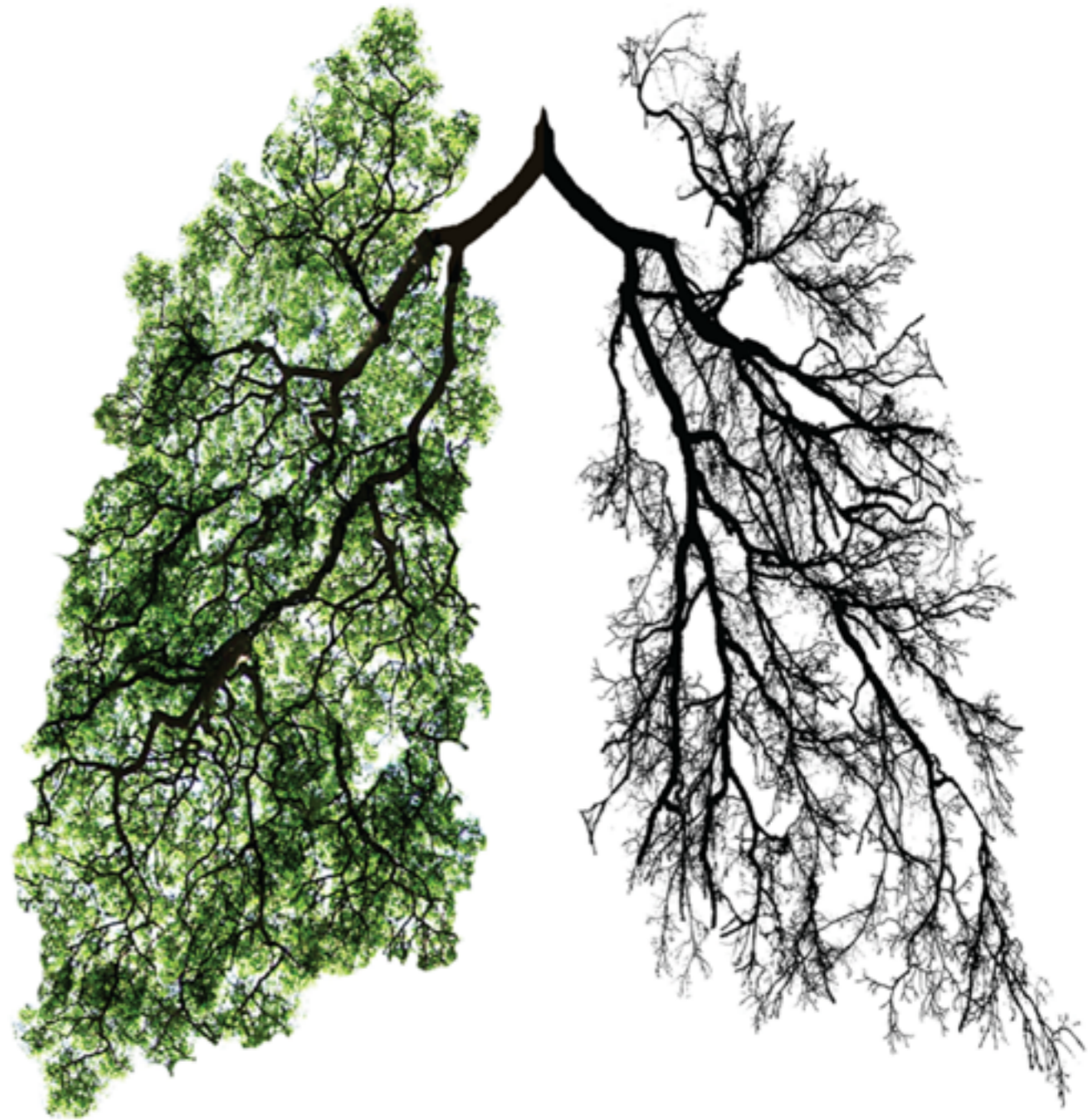
& is a
powerful
word





am·per·sand

*Resembling a broken infinity,
the ampersand reminds us
that nothing truly lasts forever
but there is always an AND*



Opposites



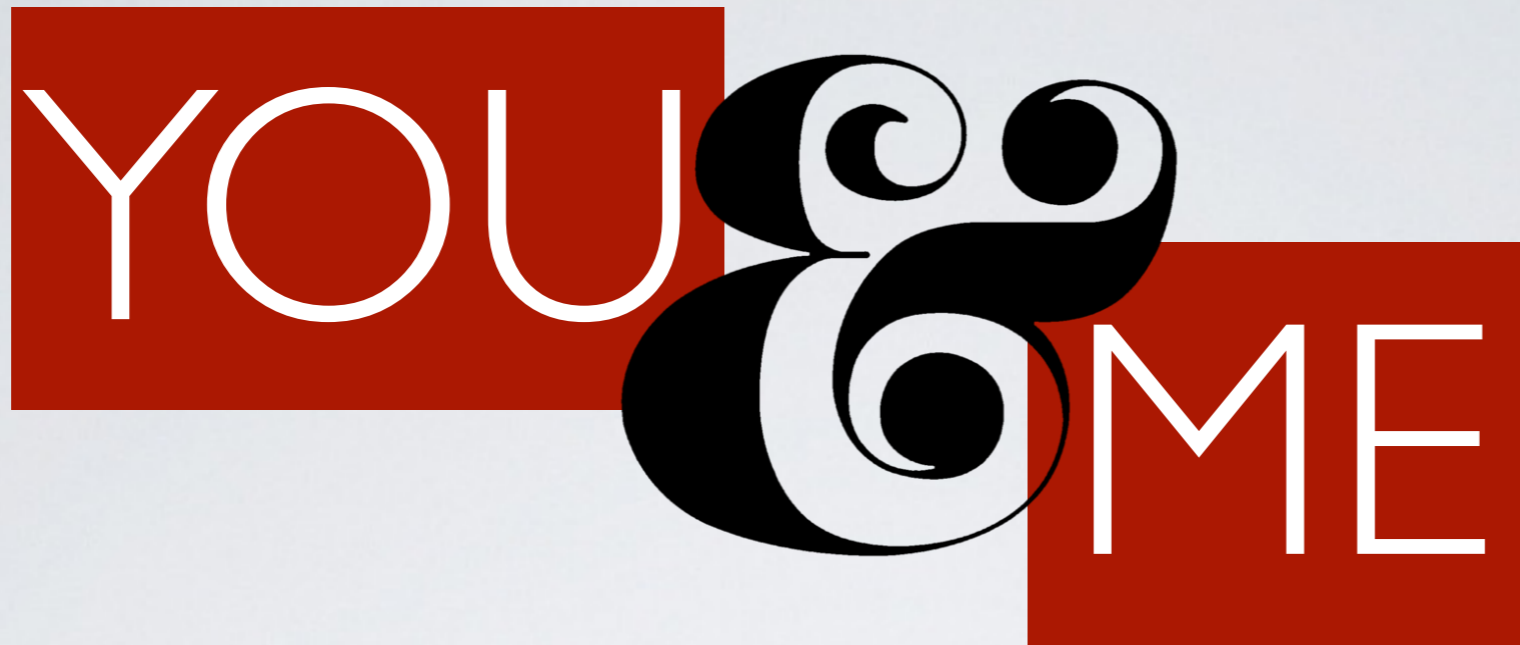
THE WAY MY MIND WORKS...



SIMON SINEK: START WITH WHY

- Very few people or companies can clearly articulate WHY they do WHAT they do. By WHY I mean your purpose, cause or belief - WHY does your company exist? WHY do you get out of bed every morning? And WHY should anyone care?
- People don't buy WHAT you do, they buy WHY you do it.
- “As the Zen Buddhist saying goes, HOW you do anything is how you do everything.”
- “The role of a leader is not to come up with all the great ideas. The role of a leader is to create an environment in which great ideas can happen.”
- “Henry Ford summed it up best. “If I had asked people what they wanted,” he said, “they would have said a faster horse.”
- **The Golden Circle is in balance. They are in pursuit of WHY, they hold themselves accountable to HOW they do it and WHAT they do serves as the tangible proof of what they believe.”**

- The only way people will know what you believe is by the things you say and do, and if you're not consistent in the things you say and do, no one will know what you believe.
- When you start with WHY, those who believe what you believe are drawn to you for very personal reasons. It is those who share your values and beliefs, not the quality of your products, that will cause the system to tip.
- Greatness is not born from one success. Greatness is born from persevering through the countless failed attempts that preceded.
- When we tell people to do their jobs, we get workers. When we trust people to get the job done, we get leaders.
- **When you are unclear about your WHY, WHAT you do has no context.**
- Simon Sinek, Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action
- https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action?language=en



**IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO DO AMAZING THINGS
IN YOUR LIFE,
I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU
TO INVITE SOMEONE
TO JOIN YOU.**

SIMON SINEK



WHY
AM I
HERE?

TO TELL A MORE BEAUTIFUL STORY



SHOW THE POWER OF &

WHAT ARE YOUR CORE BELIEFS?



WHY?

are you a THESPIAN?

HOW

WE ARE
GOING
TO DO

EVERYTHING

WE DO...

INTENTION

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

RAGE

anger & passion

let's RAGE from the STAGE.

INTENTION

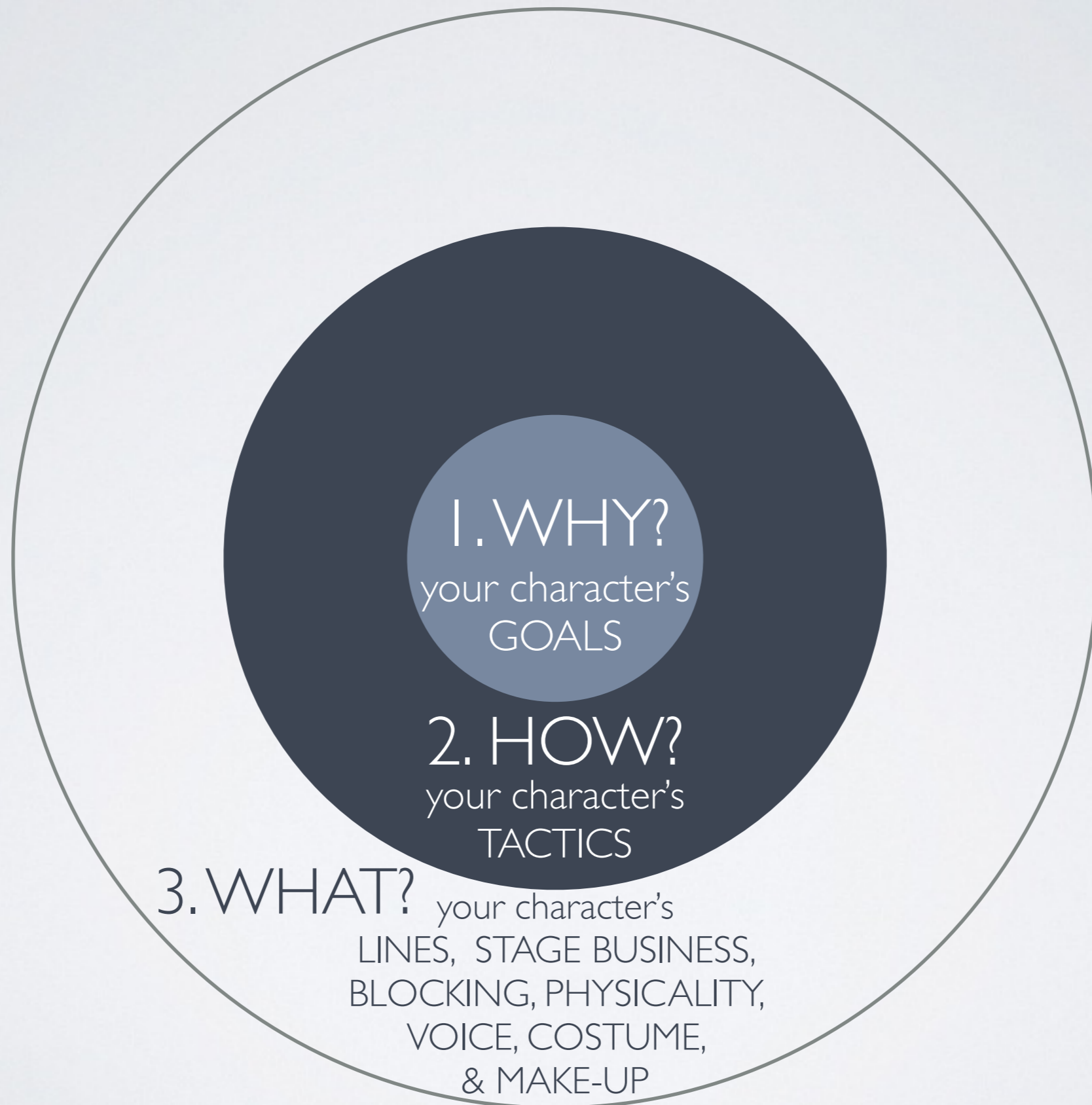
Objective is what the character wants, or what the character's goal is.

Intention, perhaps the most important job an actor has,

is the meaning of the line

or what's going on in the actor's mind—
the subtext.

CREATING A CHARACTER WITH **INTENTION**...



INTENTION

an aim or plan.

a person's design.

the healing process of a wound.

from Latin intentio(n-) 'stretching, purpose,'

MY INTENTIONAL THOUGHTS...

- INTENTION MEANS stretching: stretching hurts, strains, is uncomfortable, & not easy.
- INTENTIONAL is purposeful, planned, designed.
- INTENTIONAL is extended toward something outside of itself, aimed.
- the purpose is outside of yourself.
- there is always a target.
- & something to send to the target
- & YOU are the person who works to send that something (a performance, an event, a play, etc...) towards our target...



Our intention
creates our
reality.

- Wayne Dyer

Intention leads
to behaviors which
lead to habits which
lead to personality
development which
leads to destiny.

JACK KORNFIELD

LIVE LESS
OUT OF HABIT
AND MORE OUT
OF INTENT.

WHAT ONE
DOES
IS WHAT COUNTS AND
NOT WHAT ONE HAD THE
INTENTION
OF DOING.

live
every
day
with
intention.

RESPECT

a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

esteem, regard, high opinion, admiration, reverence, deference, honor

the state of being admired or respected.

due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others.

from Latin from re- 'again' + specere 'look at.'

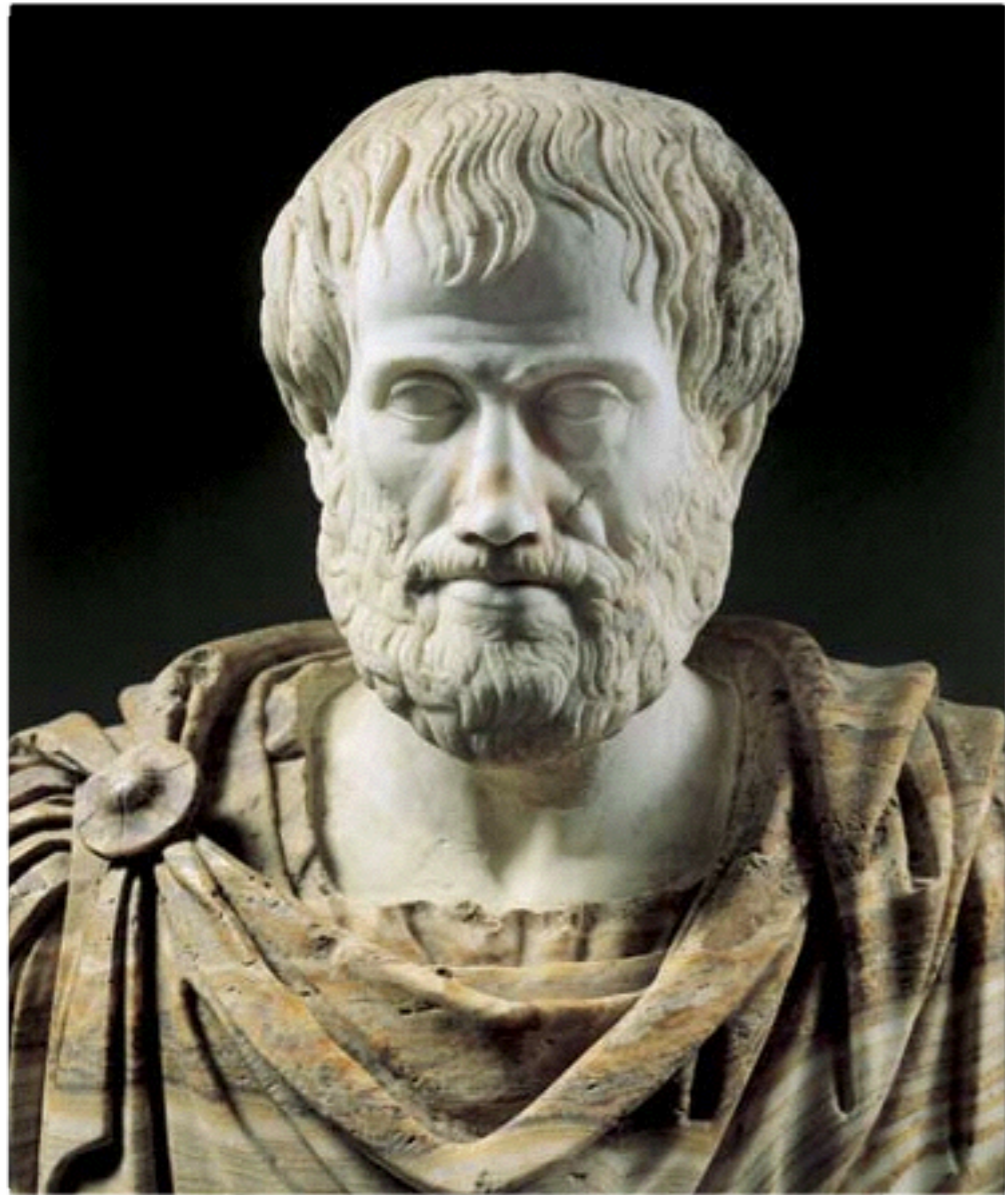
MY RESPECTFUL THOUGHTS...

- if you only look once at something, you only see what is obvious.
- we will look AGAIN at plays, at situations, at events, at people, to see what it beneath the surface.
- that is how we will respect the work we do, who we are, and our audiences.



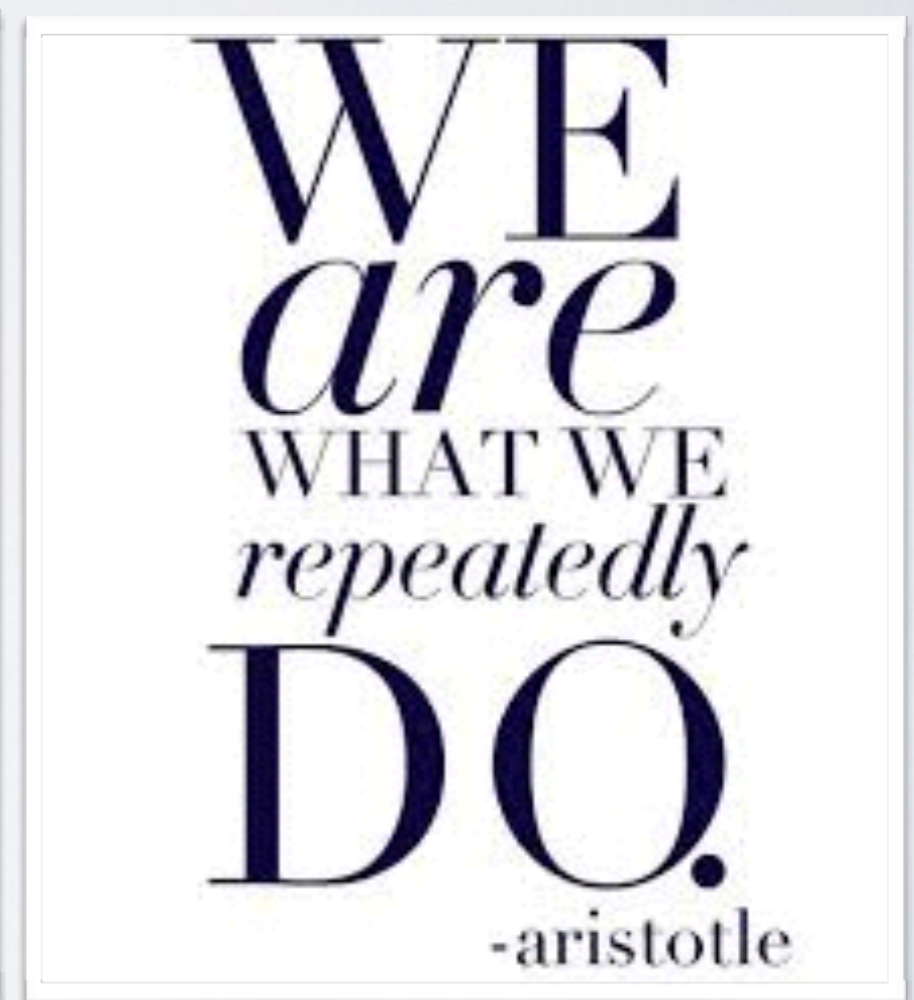
EXCELLENCE
extremely good; outstanding

ARISTOTLE'S EXCELLENT THOUGHTS...



- “Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of **high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution**; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.”
- “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit.”

- we will do what we can do EXCELLENTLY. not what we can phone in. not what we want to do. not what would be feasible but what we can do an outstanding job from start to finish.
- but what we have the **TIME, ENERGY, & RESOURCES** to do EXCELLENTLY.
- we will **plan** excellently, we will **rehearse** excellently, we will **perform** excellently.



TAKE A LESSON FROM NATURE

- Cut out that which seems good to **invest in the best.**
- Pruning down leads to PRODUCING what is EXCELLENT and STRONG.
- It is the law of growth: Early sacrifice leads to a later bountiful and beautiful harvest.



Why
DOES
LEON THEATRE
EXIST?

LEON THEATRE EXISTS TO
INTENTIONALLY
RESPECTFULLY, &
EXCELLENTLY,
TELL A MORE BEAUTIFUL STORY
THAT INFORMS, INFUSES,
INSPIRES, INVOLVES,
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EXISTS

from Latin *existere/exsistere*

"to step out, stand forth, emerge, appear; exist, be"

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TELL

Communicate information, facts, or news to someone in spoken or written words.
make aware, acquaint with, advise,

Narrate or relate (a tale or story).

A tell in poker is a change in a player's behavior or demeanor that is claimed by some to give clues to that player's assessment of their hand. A player gains an advantage if they observe and understand the meaning of another player's tell, particularly if the tell is unconscious and reliable.

Tell also comes from the word tale (a story or a lie)

A tell (in the Middle East) is an artificial mound formed by the accumulated remains of ancient settlements.

MY TELLING THOUGHTS...

- I want our audiences to be able to see our (poker like) TELL in whatever we do. See our unconscious and reliable story of who we are and why we are doing what we do.
- Tell also comes from the word tale (a story or a lie.) Theatre almost died early on because Plato described it as "lie." And he wasn't far from the truth (ha.) It survived because Aristotle said that is was a natural human tendency to MIMIC others and to tell stories (real or fictitious ones.) And therefore we have theatre. Thank you Aristotle.
- Sanford Meisner says the definition of real acting is **“to live truthfully under the imaginary circumstances”**. To live truthfully in the middle of a tale (lie.)
- And a tell (in the Middle East) is an artificial mound formed by the accumulated remains of ancient settlements. We are building LEON THEATRE on mounds formed by many years of accumulated remains from incredible artists, teachers, and performers. We owe them to tell our stories on top of theirs in new and excellent ways...



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BEAUTIFUL

full of good, charm, favor, attractive

Latin from *bene*:
to do something well,
in the right way,
honorably,
in the right time



MY BEAUTIFUL THOUGHTS...

- there is time to do every play, but for a play to be truly beautiful it needs to be done in the exact **right time**, in the right way, giving it honor and dignity, doing it well with effort worthy of the artists involved.
- beauty is something that attracts. our theatre should attract an audience.



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INFORM

give (someone) facts or information; tell.

Latin from in (into) + form (shape)

we make pictures on the stage, we give a shape to the message of the play,

we tell our stories and they form us (and our audience) as we tell them.



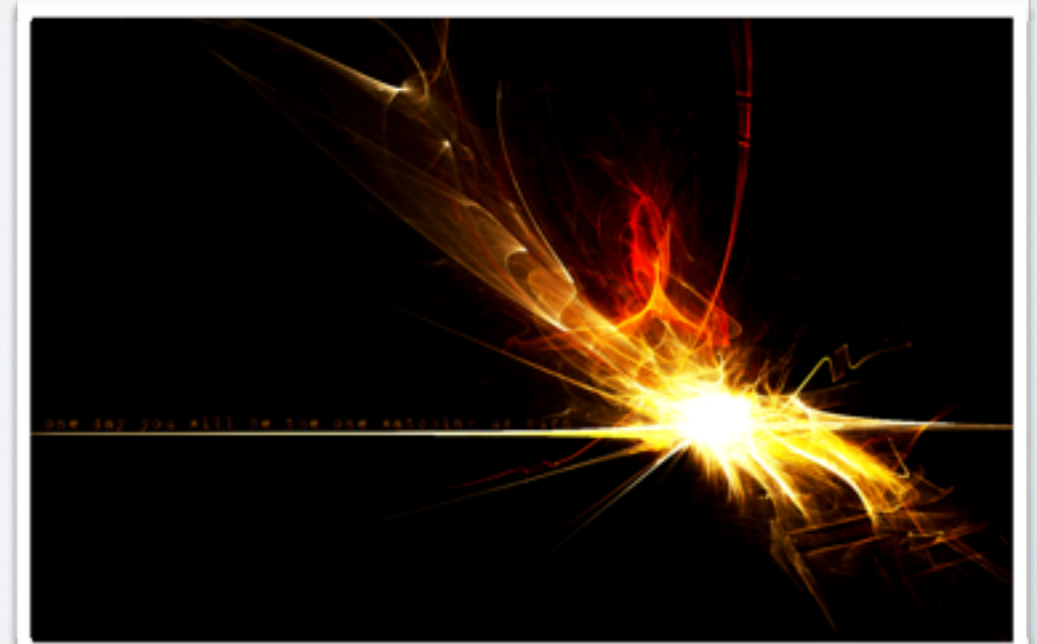
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INFUSE

fill, poured into,

Latin from *in* (into) + *fuse* (poured)

- *we will pour ourselves into our work. filling them with meaning.*
- *but also this makes me think of the word FUSE: to create a spark that lights a fire)*
- *this makes for a wonderful example of the power of AND: water & fire, something that soothes and something that burns, comforts and changes. both are powerful forces that can create danger or be a great asset to life...*



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INSPIRE

fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.

create (a feeling, especially a positive one) in a person.

Latin from *in* (into) + *spire* (breathe)

- *when we do something in LEON THEATRE we want to give it life, real life, breathe, words,*
- *something that is breathing is alive, let's give this concept LIFE through our work*
- *and what is a spire? the highest thing in the town, a higher thing of excellence, beauty, well crafted artwork. something people look at and wonder...*



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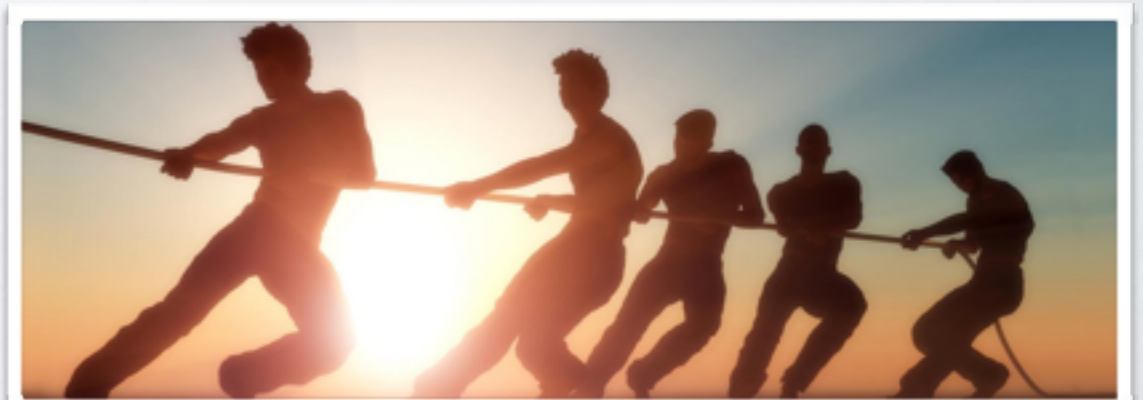
INVOLVE

to include (something) as a necessary part or result.

to cause (a person or group) to experience or participate in an activity or situation

Latin from *in* (into) + *volve* (to roll, to fold, to become personally entangled with, have a relationship)

- *we want students, faculty, parents, and the community to become INVOLVED in LEON THEATRE because what ultimately changes the world is relationships. what will change your life is the people you are in a personal relationship with, the face to face conversations,*
- *how can we involve our audience to change lives with our performances? we will use talk back sessions, meet and greets, other activities to INVOLVE them personally in our stories.*
- *we gain so much by choosing to relate to people, not to react in fear... but to form relationships.*



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IMPROVE

make or become better.

develop or increase in mental capacity by education or experience.

achieve or produce something better than before

from Latin *em* (to make) *prove* (from *prove*: to make more powerful, to make better, stronger, produce something better)

- *not POWER for POWERS sake, but power to make ourselves and the audience better.*
- *not a starring role because i want to be a star. but because i want to tell this story and telling this story will change me in some way. maybe telling a really small story in a small role will change me more. make me more humble and let me see the world in a way that will improve me. RESPECT the small stories. look at them again. and again.*
- LEAVE PEOPLE & SITUATIONS & PLACES BETTER!



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AUDIENCE

the assembled spectators or listeners at a public event, such as a play, movie, concert, or meeting.

the people giving or likely to give attention to something.

Latin from *audie* (to hear.)

*our audience needs to hear what we are telling.
& we need to listen to each other!*



MY RESPECTFUL THOUGHTS...

- if you only look once at something, you only see what is obvious.
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REHEARSAL

practice for later public performance.

mentally prepare or recite (words one intends to say).

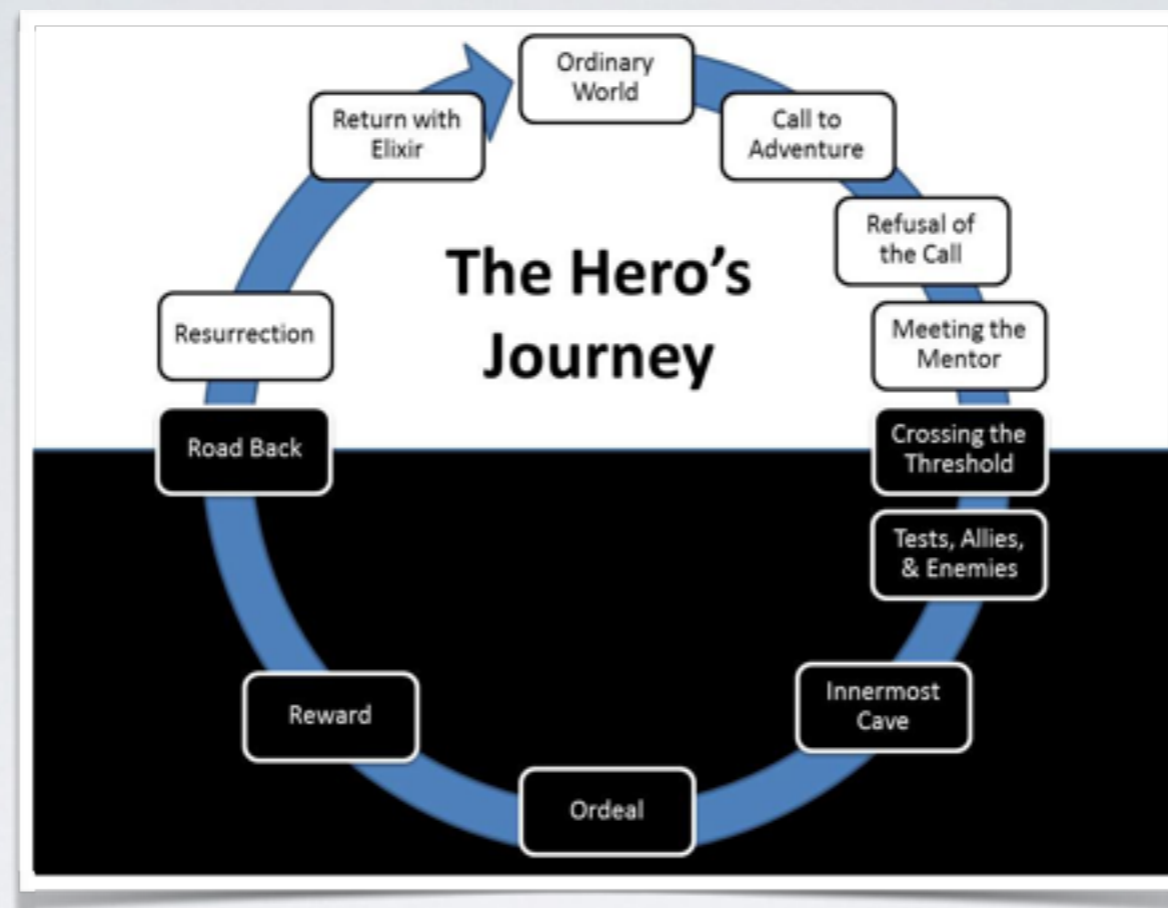
Middle English (in the sense 'repeat aloud')

from Old French rehercier,

perhaps from re- 'again' + hercer 'to harrow,' from herse 'harrow' (also see hearse).

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT REHEARSALS...

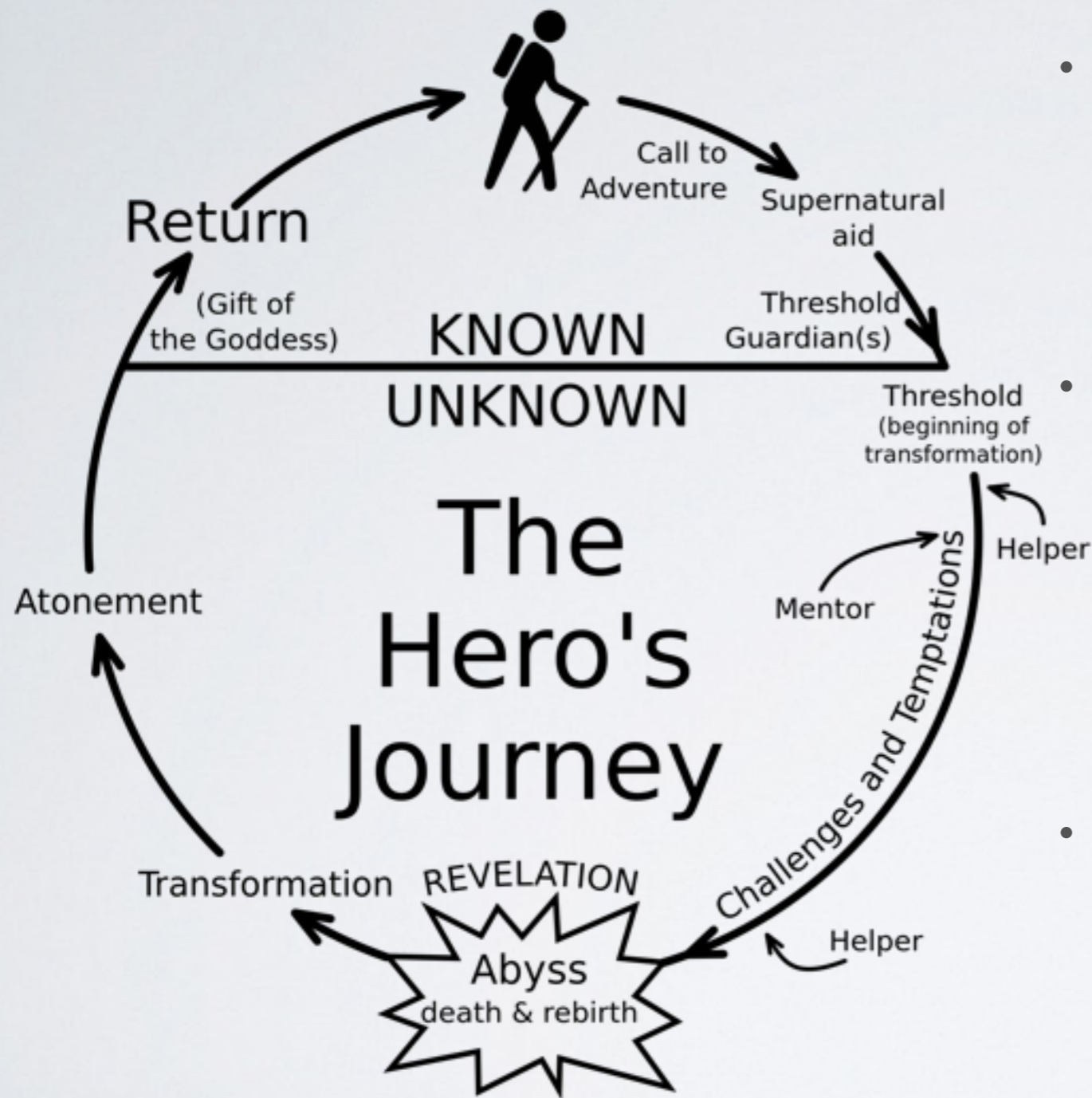
- i love that the word REHEARSE has the word HEAR in it. and the RE part. we need to be LISTENING to each other. not just saying OUR part, but truly RE-HEARING what other people and other characters are saying on the stage.
- rehearse also means to **re-harrow**, and not many of you are farmers so let me fill you in on this... HARROW means to RAKE, to break up ground to plant seeds, to cause distress, to harvest. because you have to BREAK up the ground, put in your SWEAT, to plant some seeds. and then trust that the rain and sun will do their work. then you have a harvest. HARROW means to RAKE and to HARVEST. we are going to do some hard work of breaking up some fallow ground. but we are also going to do some HARVESTING and bringing in a crop of awesomeness.
- did you catch the word HEARSE in REHEARSAL? a hearse brings the dead body to the funeral. and the last sentence in our poem of the year is "PRACTICE RESURRECTION." which means "the revitalization or revival of something." let's practice resurrection. let's revitalize some plays, people, and performances. let's have some revival around this theatre arts studio and stage.
- ARE YOU READY FOR THIS YEAR? let's tell stories that make the world better. that make us better. that scare us in some way. that we could fail a lot and grow a lot in the telling. let's tell difficult stories. let's do some difficult work and let's bring in a life giving HARVEST.



point of a story is for a character to change stories have heroes and that other guy, the guide that leads the hero to change.

every hero has a journey. every journey is harrowing. easy stories aren't interesting.

i am not the hero of the story i am telling here. you are. my purpose is to lead you to change. and the hero never really wants to change, he has to be forced to change. i am trying to help you become who you need to become in this world. and guess what ONLY by me trying to help you do i become who i need to become in this world. it is this weird power of & thing where me not focused on me, me focused on you actually helps me more than me focused on me would help me. THIS WORLD IS CRAZY, like this. but this is the only way i have found that it works. and i want you to find that power of AND also... cause i need this world to be better. and so do you.



- so i am not the hero in this thespian story. i make YOU the hero. i am the mentor/ helper. with empathy & authority.
- but remember our power of AND... i can't be the hero in the story i am telling. but YOU are telling a different story and guess what...
- you are not the hero of the story we are telling, the story we are telling is a story onstage. and that involves three areas of people, backstage, onstage, in front of the stage. in these stories, you are the other guy. the hero is the audience.
- you will tell the story with empathy and authority. and the audience will change. they will learn something. their lives will be different
- you can't be the hero. because only in you making someone else the hero, will you become who need you to be in this world.

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1. WHY?

to inform, infuse,
inspire, involve,
& improve
ourselves & our
audience

2. HOW?

intentionally, respectfully,
& excellently

3. WHAT?

tell a more beautiful story

WHAT story will
we be telling this
year?

WHAT story does
the world need us
to tell?

WHAT story do
we need to hear?

2016/17 THEATRE THEME

Love vs. FEAR

WHY?

FEAR REACTS

VS.

Love ACTS

We want to ACT.

Fear is CLOSED. Love is OPEN body position, on stage and in life.



FEAR REACTS

VS.

Love acts

Love is to fear
what light
is to darkness.

{marianne williamson}

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,
vacation with pay. Want more
of everything ready-made. Be afraid
to know your neighbors and to die.
And you will have a window in your head.
Not even your future will be a mystery
any more. Your mind will be punched in a card
and shut away in a little drawer.
When they want you to buy something
they will call you. When they want you
to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.
Denounce the government and embrace
the flag. Hope to live in that free
republic for which it stands.
Give your approval to all you cannot
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man
has not encountered he has not destroyed.

Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophesy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.
Listen to carrion - put your ear
close, and hear the faint chattering
of the songs that are to come.
Expect the end of the world. Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.
So long as women do not go cheap
for power, please women more than men.
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy
a woman satisfied to bear a child?
Will this disturb the sleep
of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields.
Lie down in the shade. Rest your head
in her lap. Swear allegiance
to what is nighest your thoughts.
As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail, the way
you didn't go. Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

Manifesto:
The Mad Farmer
Liberation Front
By Wendell Berry

11.18.16

Sophocles'
ANTIGONE

Adapted by Bonnie Roberts

*...As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail, the way
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*from Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front
By Wendell Berry*

2.24 & 2.25.17



HARPER LEE'S
**TO KILL A
Mockingbird**

ADAPTED BY CHRISTOPHER SERGEL

*...LOVE THE WORLD. WORK FOR NOTHING.
TAKE ALL THAT YOU HAVE AND BE POOR.
LOVE SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT DESERVE IT.
DENOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT AND EMBRACE
THE FLAG. HOPE TO LIVE IN THAT FREE
REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS...*

*FROM MANIFESTO: THE MAD FARMER LIBERATION FRONT
BY WENDELL BERRY*