

## **CHAIN LETTER MOVEMENT STORY**

A chain letter begins with one sentence that is then passed on to another who adds to the narrative. In the Chain Letter Movement Story, the performers build the story one segment at a time. Like “pass and go,” the last action is the starting point for the next aspect of the story. Ultimately, each performer follows the same objective, encounters different obstacles, and uses clear, objective-oriented actions (playable verbs) to move towards their desired goal. The way the “script” is expressed is defined by the ensemble as they explore the criteria for the movement language they will employ. Is it from a codified dance language, or does the group create their own “physical vocabulary”? The physical text is then simultaneously supported and synchronously “translated” with music that adheres to the same acting beats and dramatic storyline as the script that was devised.

### **WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE:**

**A REHEARSAL SCHEDULE** - set a time to meet with your group in your Zoom rehearsal room. You will need four separate meetings - Devise, Define, Share, Refine.

**A SCRIPT/STORY STRUCTURE** (group) - This is an outline of action - What happens in the beginning, middle, and end of the story your group is creating (though an outline, be specific!).

**AUDIO SCRIPT** - Identify instrumental music that conveys the mood, beat changes, and emotional flow of the story.

**CHOREOGRAPHY or STAGING** (individual and group) - Translate your story structure into action. Identify dance or movement that relays what your character is experiencing and “saying”. Repeat this action and refine what is essence of that “sentence”. Continue to build your vocabulary and physical text. Then sequence the action to parallel the action in the story structure. Audience (and I) can tell when someone is just moving to something the first time and when something has been strategically choreographed or staged with a great deal of thought. Rehearse your movement several times and make specific choices.

**RECORD YOUR SECTION OF THE STORY** (individual) - A video of yourself moving/dancing/kinesthetically storytelling your section of the music.

**CONNECT THE PARTS** (group) - Like a chain letter, your part is passed on to the next artist, who passes it onto the next artist, and so on.

The videos will then need to be merged. Identify at least one person in the group who can put them together through platforms such as I-Movie. PLEASE LABEL YOUR VIDEO: STAGE MOVEMENT 2 CHAIN LETTER - then the title of your piece.

**WHAT YOU ALL WILL NEED TO SUBMIT BY EMAIL:**

The script (everyone needs to submit, though it can/should be the same document)

A Youtube or Vimeo link to your final product.

Here are a three examples of a Chain Letter Movement Story (some more abstract, some more “literal” or “pedestrian”).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3pFxsYPLgU> - Exquisite Corps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUiPE0HSysI&list=PLQiiMOBSPZgNvZDRh6EG8G6V06gDc1wba&index=1> - Bowie State University Stage Movement 2 - “Breaking Up with School”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPupxa8YIyo&list=PLQiiMOBSPZgNvZDRh6EG8G6V06gDc1wba&index=2> - Bowie State University Stage Movement 2 - “Rushing to Get to School”