

PLUNGE!

A Cabaret Concept

Cabaret Theater on a mission:
art, higher education,
and community service
brought together to do
real work in the real world.

ONE-ERY...TWO-ERY...

Original script and compilation by Jennifer Rodgers Beach
Musical arrangements by Jennifer Rodgers Beach, Tim Coles and Doug Yetter

THE SHOW

“One-ery...Two-ery...” is a full-length cabaret show about the choices we make and those we’re made of. The original script, based on the life of the artist, weaves together a wide range of songs from Sondheim to Strauss, as well as the words of Whitman, DuBois, Silverstein, and Thoreau. A ninety-minute performance marathon, the show bursts with humor, wit, and wisdom.

“A potent blend of inspiration and entertainment...Rodgers’ performance is exemplary of ‘power beyond measure.’”
-*The Washington Post*, April 2001.

Jennifer Rodgers Beach, playing herself, takes the audience through a variety of life choices using an eclectic mix of musical styles, literature, and conversation. She leads the audience through the mazes of finding a career that fits, relationships that continually begin and end, and uncovering what is truly worthwhile in life. Tim Coles provides a brilliant musical backdrop from the piano while also playing Jennifer’s confidante, foil, and straight-man. The audience is invited to experience and sometimes participate in the ups and downs of the stories being told.

THE RESIDENCY

“One-ery...Two-ery...” dramatically illustrates the power of choice and how that power governs a life through relationships, careers, lifestyles, health, and aging. In residency, the artists use material from the show as a basis for seminars, master classes and interactive coursework to explore and develop understanding of those topics and many others.

Dramatic material provides us with rich examples of human development in all stages of life, levels of complexity, and range of emotions. A song can present an instant case study with a believable scenario and three-dimensional people from which meaningful exploration can quickly begin. The characters in “One-ery...Two-ery...,” range from young to old, content to conflicted, privileged to disadvantaged. Calling on both our performance and facilitation skills, we use those characters to jump-start sessions on issues such as personal leadership development, power and empowerment, and life choices. In technical sessions (such as Master Classes with music and theater groups), we help students with healthy vocal production, but also help them explore full interpretations of literature and communication of character through voice and body. A select list of workshops, discussions and ‘play sessions’ for the college community includes:

Choice and Women’s History

Women’s Studies Course

In-class workshop on the changing role of women in society.

What Does Power Look Like?

Dept. of Dance, Middle School Arts Program

Interactive workshop for middle school students (through a college collaborative program) to demonstrate power and empowerment through movement and metaphor.

Music Master Class

Music Department

A session of vocal coachings for voice majors and minors.
(Could also be applied to a theater audience or for choral groups.)

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ONE-ERY...TWO-ERY...

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Natural Fits for “One-ery...Two-ery...” on Campus: Performing Arts (Music and Theater) • Psychology • Sociology • Leadership Education • Wellness Programs • Career Counseling • Women’s Studies • Counseling & Personnel • Human Resources.

Selected List of Topics: Traditional and Alternative Power • Self-Esteem and Reliance • Leadership Development • Creative Thinking • Careers in the Performing Arts

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

The content of “One-ery...Two-ery...” and the facilitation skills of the artists have been powerfully and effectively partnered with domestic violence shelters, senior centers, middle school and high school audiences. Women’s services, youth services, crisis groups, and leadership development organizations are perfect candidates for partnership with this show.

In moving from the campus to the community, we’re often shifting focus from the theoretical to the applied, and from the neutral to the personal. In developmental, social and cultural organizations, participants need a high level of engagement and many ways to connect with the material and with people they serve. In crisis and need-based organizations, where stakes are high, short-term and specific, participants need an atmosphere that they can trust and relax into, and one that connects to their present lives. Our approach provides for those needs, helps people open up quickly and sets groups in motion on the issues at hand.

Plunge! provides a unique, creative space for participants (be they counselors, clients, teachers, students, etc.) to work in, and the catalyst of music and theater to generate discussion and promote engagement. We can accommodate any size group and work to include any combination of participants from community organizations and institutions of higher learning. A select list of workshops includes:

The Many Faces of a Career in the Performing Arts	<i>High School Chorus</i>
Performance and discussion about paths and options in the life of an artist.	
Finding Alternative Power	<i>Domestic Violence Support Group</i>
Workshop exploring alternative sources of power for people in disadvantaged positions.	
Facilitating Power and Diversity Issues	<i>Women’s Services Organization</i>
Staff retreat developing methods to empower clients and recognize diversity issues.	

Natural Fits for “One-ery...Two-ery...” in the Community: Leadership Development Organizations • Women’s Services and Shelters • Support Groups • Crisis Centers • Advocacy Organizations • Primary and Secondary Schools • Youth Centers • Community Theater/Arts Programs • Community Activity Centers.

Selected List of Topics: Traditional and Alternative Types of Power • Self-Esteem and Reliance • Leadership Development • Creative Thinking • Careers in the Performing Arts • Life Choices and Decisions.