

Simon Mallett New Work Program Submission Form

Name of Project: Generation

Type of Applicant: Collective

Name of Group, Collective, or Theatre Company: Three's a Company!

Primary Contact

Name: Lori Juniper

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Other Artists Involved: Nariman Hussain, Lars Von Graft

About You:

We are three young, emerging artists who are at the beginning of exploring our craft as creators. We all met in school and discovered that we had the same desire to create work that spoke to what we were experiencing. We've dabbled in verbatim text in plays during a school project, but would love to see how that element can be expanded to really open up a discussion to value opinions that are different than ours. Within our group, we all started out as actors, but have also expanded into other areas, so Lori has a strong eye for direction, Nariman for narrative arc and dramaturgy, and Lars for design. Together, we have a variety of skills that we put to use in making new theatrical work.

About the Project

What stage is your project at? Concept

Describe your project.

In the past three months, all of us have encountered conversations where we've been very put off by comments made about our generation, ie millennials. Things like, we're entitled or too sensitive about being 'politically correct' or that we're so vain and disconnected thanks to social media. We find these comments condescending and untrue- we write these people off as being ignorant and behind the times and avoid being around them. So we realize that both sides are limited and biased in the way they view other generations. We, as ourselves, rarely spend time with people outside of our age range that are not our family, but have had glimpses from our grandparents about the struggle for older generations to be heard, valued, and connected to the community, which is strikingly similar to the ones we feel too.

In our work, we want to move past a generic, one dimensional perspective to really look into the nitty gritty that older and younger share, what bonds us, what pulls us apart, and what opportunities we're missing out on by being so separated by this generational gap and ignorance. Eventually we'd like to create a performance that might use verbatim text from our

explorations and/or include performers or people we've chatted with to represent multiple generations onstage.

We're at the early stages and have a lot more questions than answers. It's a bit daunting to figure out how to move forward on this project because getting all of us in the same room at the same time to lay out a plan has been difficult. We believe that a 2 day workshop would really help us move to the next step, as we want to:

- Distill the main question we're exploring further for focus, while also cataloging smaller questions underneath it
- Create a list of activities we will do that reflect the question we are digging into and a timeline for our plan of action (for example: do we go for a lot of opinions or stick to a small group of people to go really deep into this with; do we organize a Locked Room for group bonding or debate contentious topics that have come up in these past aggravating conversations and try to figure out a way to make it a productive discourse, etc.)
- Develop one 'activity' to the point where we could look at using it in practice

Downstage Connection and Support

How does it fit with the type of work we're interested in?

We've noticed that we have the same conversations with the same people who are similar to us in many ways. Or, if it's a different group of people, it often becomes heated or causes one group to be shut down. We want to look at the generational gap in a really open way that includes people outside of our demographic, so that we have conversations with new people that decrease ignorance and assumptions on both sides and maybe even increases connection between disparate groups and potentially isolated individuals.

We're hoping this piece would include a variety of people from different generations, thereby making it potentially more appealing or relatable for a variety of audience members to go and see a bit of themselves onstage.

In what areas can we help you with your goals?

1. *Financial*
2. *In Kind*
3. *Space*
4. *Knowledge/Skills*

Please describe, in relation to what you have selected above, what you specifically need.

1. Financial
\$600 in artist fees (3 artists at \$200)- this will help us dedicate those two days to this work and take time off of our other jobs
2. In Kind
We'd appreciate someone looking over our question, activities, and timeline to give us feedback about whether that seems like an interesting exploration and if the structure could work.

3. Space

A space that we can put stickies up on the wall and have a table to talk around for 2 days sometime around November 15, 2017

Support Materials:

1. Three's a Company! Resumes – Lori, Nariman, Lars
2. 2 page excerpt from "Label This" a verbatim exploration for a school project