

SCRIPT: BREAK THE SILENCE

COSTUMES ARE TAKEN TO MALL AND PLACED IN SPACE THAT IS ADEQUATE TO CONTAIN ALL OUR PROPS AND STILL CREATE AUDIENCE. PROPS ARE RED COSTUMES, BLACK COSTUMES, SIGNS. PERFORMERS WILL BE IN RED PANTS ALREADY SO THAT THEY WILL PUT ON RED TOPS.....THEN GET IN ORDER OF WORDS: BREAK SILENCE TURN FEAR INTO ANGER....HOLDING HANDS: IT IS NECESSARY TO USE THIS IMAGE TO CREATE AN AUDIENCE SO THAT YOU MAY NEED TO EITHER CIRCLE THE CityHALL AREA OR MOVE TO SPOT AND STAND IN LINE.....WHEN AUDIENCE BEGINS TO ASSEMBLE GO BACK TO COSTUME AREA BEGIN PUTTING ON BLACK COSTUMES, HOOD LAST..... HELP EACH OTHER WITH HOODS.....WHEN IN COSTUME AGAIN STAND IN LINE FOR FEW SECONDS BEFORE BEGINNING NEXT IMAGE.....THE MYTHS SIGNS WILL ALREADY BE PLACED AGAINST POSTS BY Leslie..... ~~xxx~~ in line one behind the other walk to sign....ONE OF YOU TAKE SIGN THE OTHER CIRCLE THE SIGN WHICH IS BEING HELD UP HIGH..... AFTER CIRCLING % SIGNS....GO BACK TO PROP AREA PICK UP REALITY SIGN.....WALK THROUGH MALL LED BY ME WHO WILL BE HANDING OUT INFO ON PERFORMANCE AND MYTHS.....UPON RETURN TO STARTING POINT EACH PERFORMER GOES UP TO ONE SIGN TURNS MYTH SIGN OVER ON SIDE AND REPLACES IT WITH REALITY SIGN.....EACH PERFORMER TAKES OFF BLACK COSTUME AND IN RED COSTUME TAKES SELF DEFENSE POSITION... I WILL COME AROUND AND SHOW YOU A TECHNIQUE WHICH CAN DUPLICATE..... HOLD STANCE ~~xxx~~ OR SWITCH TO ANOTHER ONE....THERE ARE FIVE TECHNIQUES.....GROIN,,,,,KNEES,,,,,THROAT....NOSE.....EYES.... EITHER DO ONE OR TWO OR ALL OF THEM..... NOTE: FEEL VERY RELAXED ABOUT ME COMING OVER AND HELPING YOU THAT IS PART OF PERFORMANCE.....THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKES.... THINK OF IT AS A RITUAL-PERSONAL AND PUBLIC.....

"BREAK THE SILENCE" - Performance(part of project "Rape is Everybody's Concern")

This performance created by Leslie Labowitz, artist and co-director of "Rape is Everybody's Concern" is performed by students of UNLV. It is about women taking power over their bodies and lives. They are breaking the silence about rape and turning their fear into constructive anger. They are doing something about the problem and offering alternative images and behaviour patterns to women and men.

The women in red represent the rage of all women at the violence committed against them through history. They have Break the Silence, Turn Fear into Anger written on them to symbolize women's move into power over their lives. This image sets the stage for the beginning of the piece and the one which starts the ritual that follows.

The woman dressed in black pants represents a contemporary woman that moves in out of the performance narrating, directing, passing out information. She is sometimes an objective observer and sometimes an equal part of the emotional impact of the ritual itself. All the women performers refuse to be victims.

They put on black costumes with tall hoods that reflect women in mourning for all women who have been victims. The image of women in mourning together is very common in all cultures. They circle the MYTH signs to break the power of societal myths. They carry the Reality signs through the Mall to further promote the image of women breaking the silence. They return to the Myth signs, turn them over and replace them with Reality signs. They take off the black costumes. In the red costumes they do self-defense techniques in front of each sign.

FIVE SELF DEFENSE TECHNIQUES: GROIN, KNEES, THROAT, NOSE, EYES