

Standard Inquiry for ACT Productions

[DRAFT 8/21/21]

Introduction

We recognize that as a contemporary theatre we will be producing risky and provocative productions. Given the nature of this work, we commit to supporting the artistic collaborators, board, staff, and community by creating a deliberate framework in which to produce each play responsibly. We use the following document to proactively explore the needs of a given project and develop tactics to address those needs.

Inquiry Procedure

The following questions are discussed comprehensively by production staff, curation committee, and ethics committee members prior to beginning work on every ACT production.

Why does this project belong in our season?

- What specific contemporary concerns and/or ideas does this project address?
- How does this project exemplify ACT's identity and mission?
- What status quo does this project challenge?
- Who does this project include and/or center?

What aspects of this project may pose a risk of potential harm to those who may engage with it?

- Who might this project exclude, marginalize, or tokenize?
- What scripted elements present in this project should be addressed explicitly by artistic leadership with collaborators, and/or in community-facing trigger warnings?
Specifically, but not limited to:
 - Abusive or triggering language
 - Physical or psychological violence
 - Sexualized physical or psychological contact
 - Racial, religious, political, or ability-centered conflict, violence, or instances of oppression
 - Religious intimacy (prayer, ritual, etc.)
 - Ableist harm or implied supremacy
 - Specific races, cultures, languages, backgrounds represented

- What additional resources and best practices should be implemented for this project to mitigate potential harm?
- What additional practitioners should be in the room while working on this project to mitigate potential harm?

What specific cultural connections will ACT make between this project and the greater Seattle community?

- What outreach and education can we provide/support?
- How will we engage the community beyond the production itself? [e.g. art installations, pre/post-show discussions, etc.]
- How will marketing dynamically and authentically represent the project, and connect with the community it centers?
- How can ACT avoid tokenization by proactively carrying these cultural connections forward into the future?