

WE KNEW EACH OTHER ONCE BEFORE—Synopsis

A synopsis, academically speaking, is usually a short recapitulation of the plot events of a story, in order to facilitate understanding of the narrative arc. A synopsis is highly useful when a short but detailed explanation of a piece is necessary, or when you'd like to learn more about whether the piece will tell a story that you'd be interested to hear. However, WE KNEW EACH OTHER ONCE BEFORE does not fit delicately into the usual academic description of what a 'show' is. If you're looking for something uncategorizable, you've come to the right place.

This piece is in three acts. Each act was created over the course of five days of digital rehearsals, with its own cast of six, seven, or eight collaborators. Each group, one per week, was given identical warmups, exercises, and creative prompts, all centered around connection. And each week, our creators took the exercises and sprinted with them, creating fresh expressions of all facets of connections with whatever was at their disposals: their voices, their bodies, their surroundings, and their minds.

WE KNEW EACH OTHER ONCE BEFORE could loosely be identified as a 'concept musical,' as the academics put it—its focus on abstract exploration and its non-hierarchical casting creates a piece that is free from a linear plot, and is instead an impressionistic, moment-to-moment exploration of various kinds of connection. In its journey between three acts and three collections of people, it encourages us to notice the differences, the similarities, and, of course, the connections between the outputs of three different groups with identical prompts and exercises. These twenty-one theatre students use their freshly-honed skills as performers to express what connection is to them through words, movement, and song.

Our creative leader and curator, Dante Green, took the raw artistic expressions recorded throughout each week's rehearsal processes, and edited them together into the entirety of WE

KNEW EACH OTHER ONCE BEFORE. It explores every facet of connection our twenty-two combined minds could imagine: friendships, romances, families, collaborators, acquaintances, passers-by... this show will prompt you, just as its creation prompted our creators, to reexamine every connection you hold in your life and see it in a fresh light, all from the lights on your computer screens.