A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a grey blazer, is seated at a desk and typing on a vintage typewriter. The typewriter is mounted on a metal stand. In the background, another person is visible, also working at a typewriter. The setting appears to be a classroom or a workshop. The text "Per/Son/Alia Teaching Creativity" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Per/Son/Alia

## Teaching Creativity

# Per/Son/Alia Students

- 10 Performance Students ( 9 Theatre / 1 Dance)
- 2 Creative Writing Students (English)
- 3 Composition Students (Music)
- 4 Design Students (Theatre)
- 1 Stage Management Student (Theatre)
- 8 Students as Crew (Theatre)



# Theatre Production vs Academic Course

- Unusual Timeline as compared to other courses: 168 contact hrs/student/year

# Per/Son/Alia Timeline

- Auditions September 2006
- Intensives: 3 Weekends until Dec 2006 (48hrs/student)
- Writing Period: Dec 2006 - Feb 2007
- Rehearsals: Feb/March 2007 (120 hrs/student)
- Performances: Mar 29-Apr 1, 2007 (15hrs)
- Teacher Hours total: 226 hrs / 6 credits (usual: 78hrs / 6 credits)



# Theatre Production vs Academic Course

- Unusual Timeline: 168 contact hrs/student/year
- No common teaching goal or course content (different for each group) - several syllabi

# Per/Son/Alia Content

ALL: Participate in Creation of a New Work

In Addition:

Writers:

Take Input from Cast and put together the work

Composers:

Take abilities of Cast and write for them

Actors: Rehearse and perform the result

Designers: Design without a fixed text



# Theatre Production vs Academic Course

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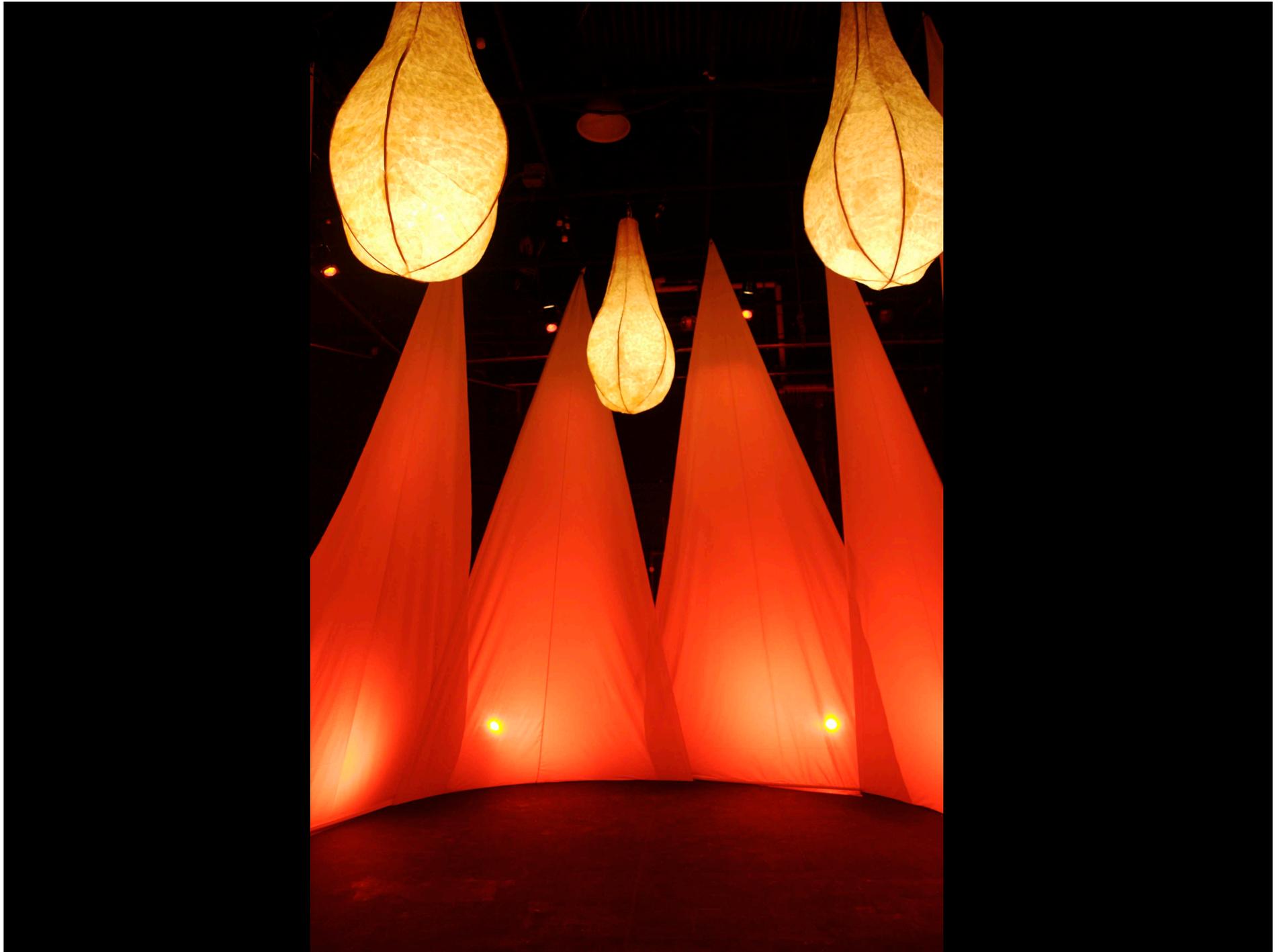
„Our business is to experience difficulty,  
not to get out of it“

*(One cast member's diary, March 3)*



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

It was very demanding on our brain



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

It has been the most difficult thing to deal  
with



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

The rehearsals were a digestion period, I was in limbo. Trusting the flow became one of the hardest things to do.



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

It was scary to be yourself, to be vulnerable.  
Human. To make mistakes and to be in a  
crisis. It was one of the most beautiful gifts I  
could have been given.



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

I wish to be in many more productions of  
this sort.



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

It was painful, but in the end, everyone is reborn and refreshed. Pain, confusion, pressure, clarity, and the feeling of rejuvenation. This is what the audience felt. Compressed into a couple of hours - and it's what we all felt over the past six months.



## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

It was an amazing life-learning experience that I will hold dearly with me. I learned a lot about what I can do and what I am willing to do. I learned about myself.

## Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

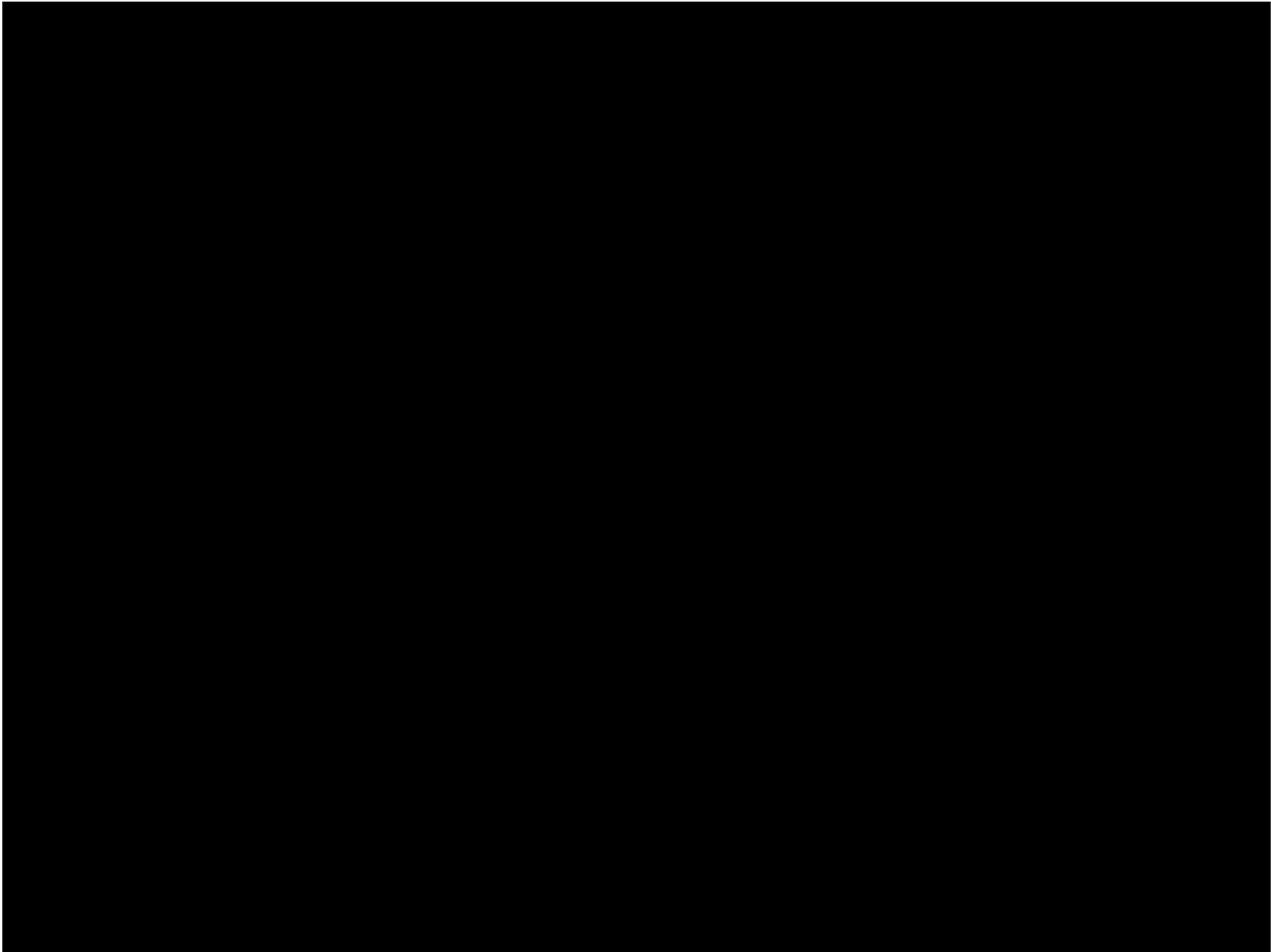
I realize that when part of an experimental piece such as this one, one must accept the fact that in the end it may not end up exactly the way you imagined. That during the process things may go wrong and be frustrating. But one must stick with it and see it through -your colleagues depend on you.



# Per/Son/Alia - Actor's Quotes from their Diaries

What I learned the most was what it means to have  
artistic integrity





# TEACHING CREATIVITY

## Structural Impediments in University Context

Role Conflict between theatre director and teacher - a theatre that nobody hates during production has done something wrong.

# TEACHING CREATIVITY

## Structural Impediments in University Context

Role Conflict between theatre director and teacher

Interdisciplinarity is not encouraged structurally (students fight for credits, teachers get no evaluations (lack of critical mass), not enough credits for extra work)

# TEACHING CREATIVITY

## Structural Impediments in University Context

Role Conflict between theatre director and teacher

Interdisciplinarity is not encouraged structurally

Risk-taking is not normally encouraged in academic culture, especially before tenure - but creative work is about risk taking...and this may backfire in many ways.

# TEACHING CREATIVITY

## Structural Impediments in University Context

Role Conflict between theatre director and teacher

Interdisciplinarity is not encouraged structurally

Risk-taking is not normally encouraged in academic culture.

General sense of entitlement and self-indulgence in society is not conducive to training in the arts - real creativity is about realizing one's own humility before the creative process - an unpopular teaching proposition.



Thank you for your attention.

Per/Son/Alia 2007  
Concordia University