

OAP Season Starts Now

Capital Conference - June 2024

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BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Register your attendance.

Complete this form for each session you attend.

Session numbers
are in the program.



Rosters

CAP
CON
2024

Session 615 - OAP Season Begins Now

Start by reading and watching a lot of Theatre

Identify your Power Players

The Qualities I look for in a script - (you can't beat a good play. Luck is having the kids for a good play.)

Set your expectations immediately.

Invite your company in on the selection process.

Constructing the Company (Actors, Crew, Creative Team, Understudies)

Rehearsal Calendar. 8 hour rule is a blessing for everybody.

Plan for Clinic

Spring Break Rehearsals

Cutting Timeline

Have fun. Leave space for play. (Spider John)

Feedback. Do your homework, Listen to all feedback, Know when to listen, Know when to stick to your guns.

Nothing is Sacred. Keeping it fresh is the most important thing you can do.

“The part of our brain that influences our behavior and decisions does not have the capacity for language.”

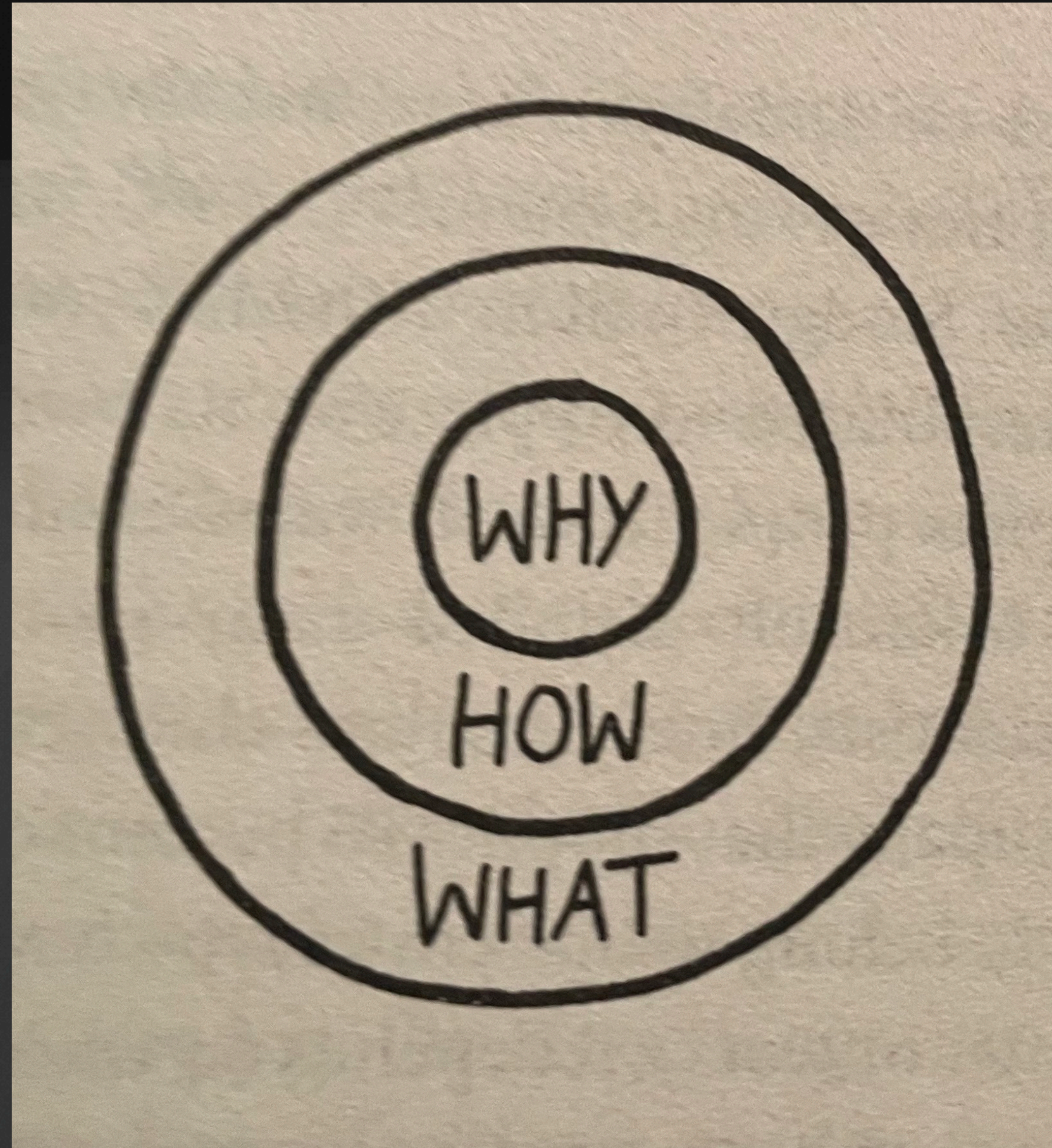
Simon Sinek

OAP Season Starts Now?

Start with WHY

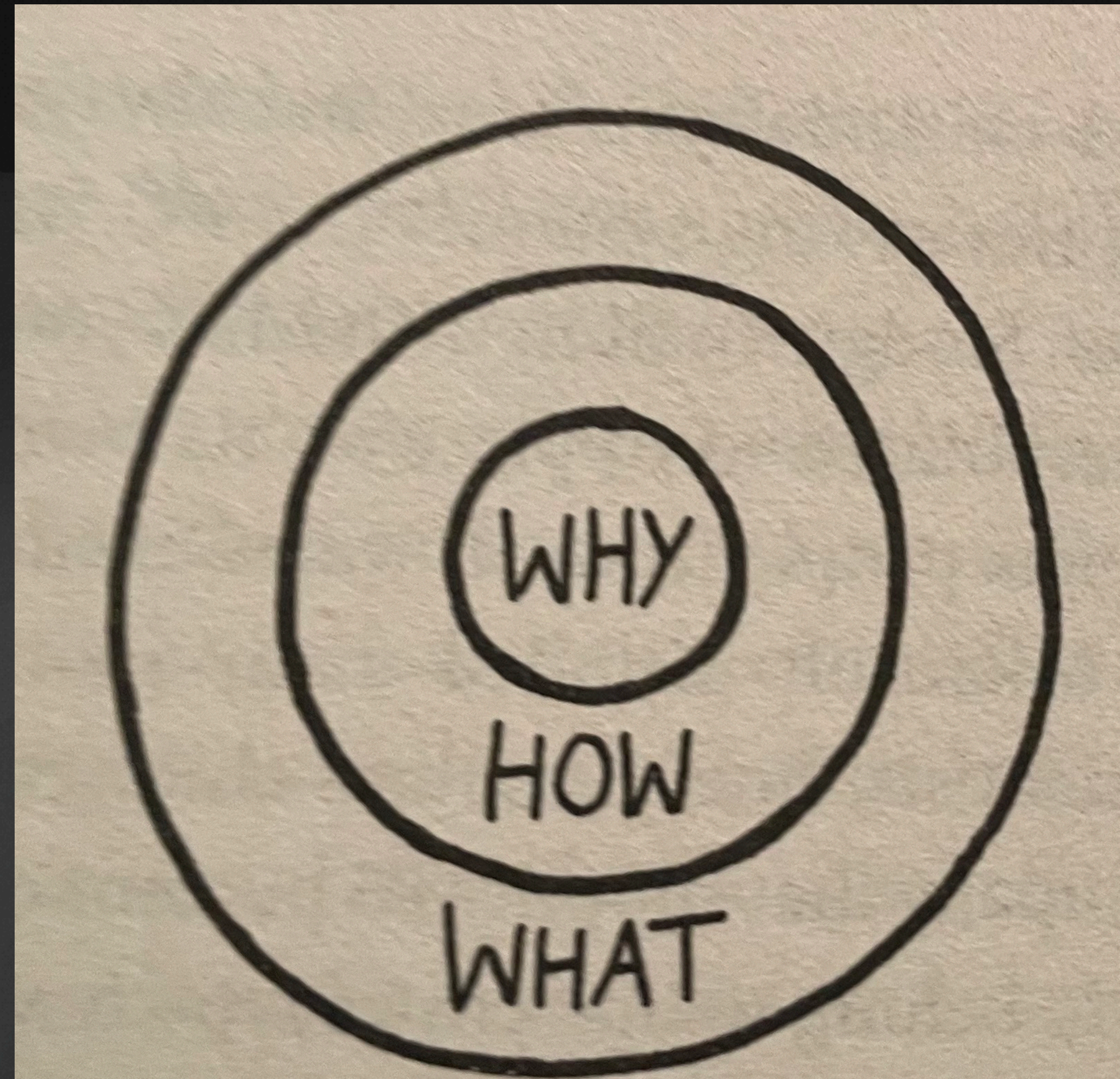
The Golden Circle

According to Simon Sinek



The Golden Circle

According to Simon Sinek



- Advancing to State/Winning the Championship is a WHAT, it is not a WHY

Why Us, Why This Year?

The Super Secret Formula to Winning One Act Play

- 2020 - The year I stopped putting WINNING at the center of my WHY
- My WHY - Find the Joy and Build Empathy. That's what we're about. That clearly stated principle guides our rehearsals, which plays we pick, how we cast, how we hold officer elections, how we interact with companies with whom we compete, HOW WE TRAIN our actors and technicians.

Why Us, Why This Year?

The Super Secret Formula to Winning One Act Play

- We had the right people in the room, with the right script in their hands.
- We worked hard and never finished refining.
- 2024 represented the culmination of working on our WHY. Working it out, sweating it out, fumbling and failing. It all lead to this year.
- AND our success didn't start in January.

The Process: A Timeline.

Entire Process Subject to Change

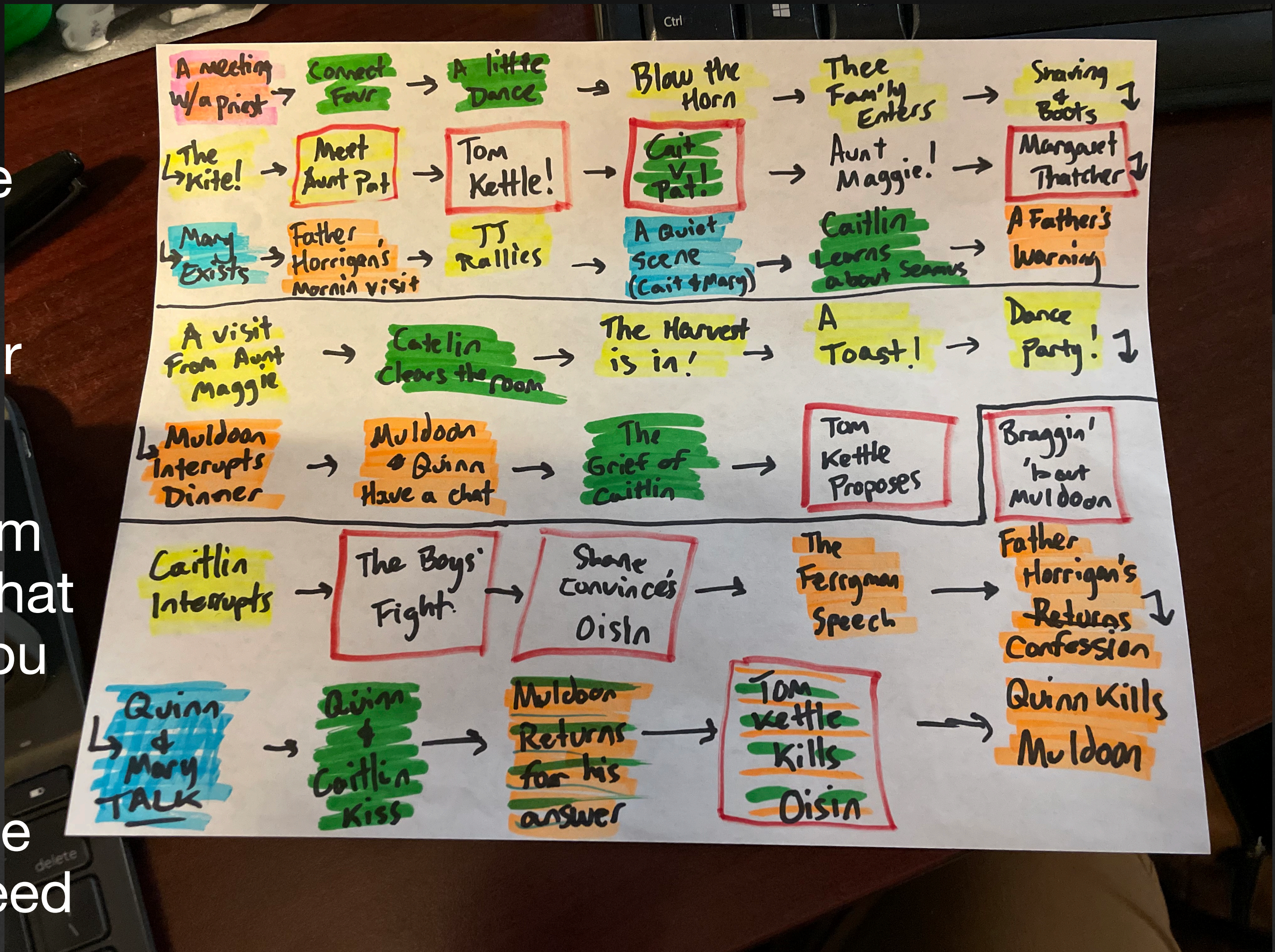
- Pick A Script (Or Scripts) (N/A - Ongoing)
- Cutting and Submitting (2 Months)
- Planning Rehearsal Calendar (2 Weeks)
- Auditions (1 - 4 Days)
- Rehearsals and Clinics (1 1/2 - 2 Months)
- Contest Season (1 Day - 3 Months)

Picking a Script

- Pick a play that FITS your kids, and CHALLENGES them as artists.
- Pick a play that PEOPLE will want to WATCH.
 - First: Pick a play your audience will enjoy. (Community Standards)
 - Second: Pick a play that your students want to do.
 - Third: ENTICES or INSPIRES you.
- Give. Yourself. Options.
 - Going into auditions I want at least 2 options (Cut-Approvals-Everything)
 - This year I made them audition for 2 plays.

Cutting/Workshopping

- START EARLY.
- If you know the 3 scripts you're looking at:
 - Do read throughs with your classes.
 - Have discussions with them throughout the reading (What makes sense? What are you taking away?)
 - Watch their reactions to the script. THAT's what you need to cut towards.



Communicate Your Vision

Let them take care of HOW things get done.

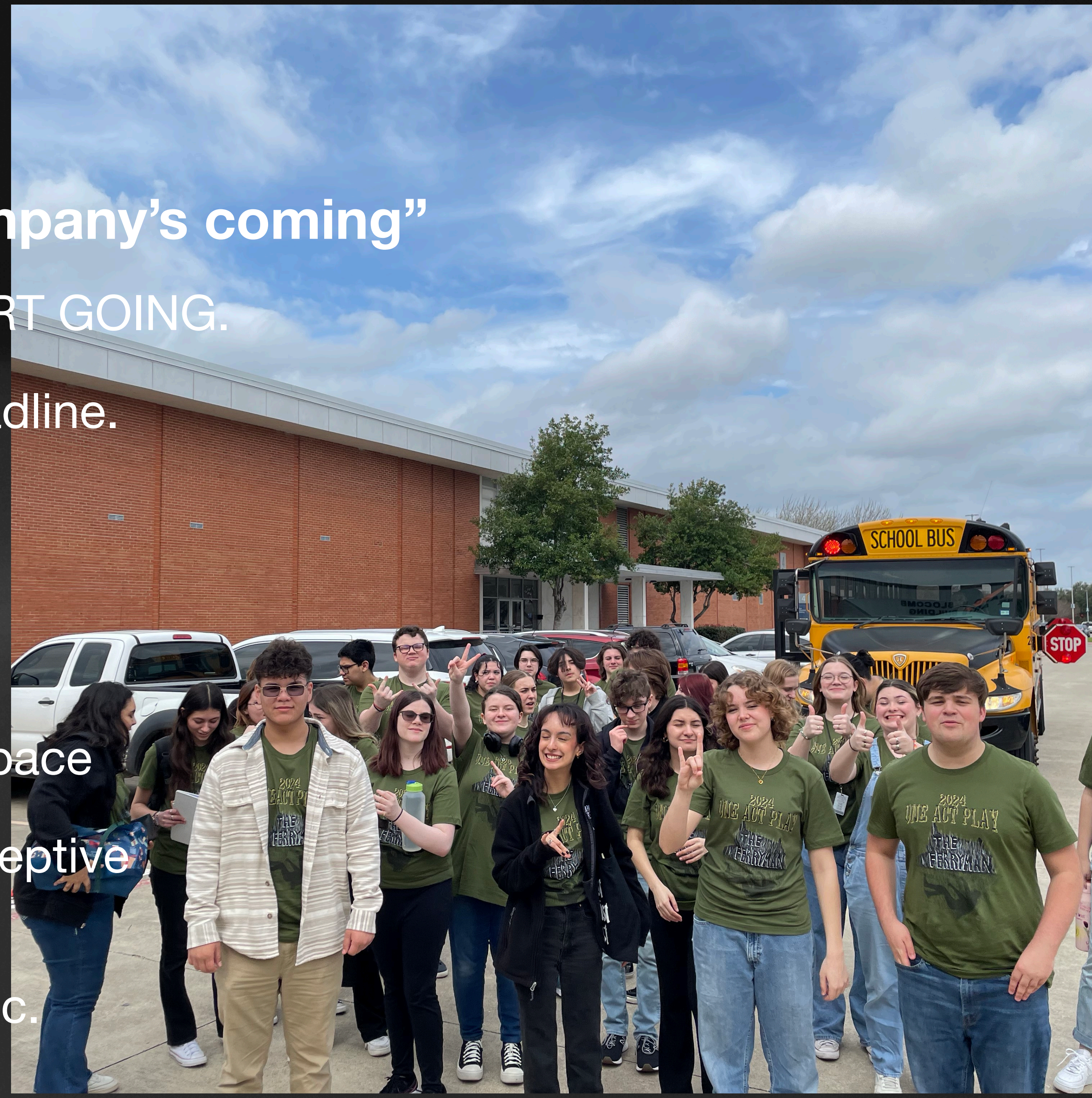
- Creative Team - I don't call them Alternates. Their roles are contingent on their skills. Some are designers, Some are builders, Some are organizers. Only 5 of them were in the "Official Company" (2 Technicians and 3 Alternates with jobs in the dressing room)
- Rehearsal Reports and Production Meetings - Designate a time that is NOT during rehearsal and help them plan what THEY are going to do.



Clinics

“Sweep it under the rug, company’s coming”

- If you’re not going to clinics, START GOING.
- Clinics are for giving Artists a Deadline.
(Which we desperately need)
- Important moment to learn:
 - How to load the truck
 - How to acclimate to a new space
 - How to be respectful and receptive during a Critique
- Nobody is ready for their first clinic.



Clinics (Cont.)

- Tried and Trues vs. Branching Out
- Timing - Spacing them out.
 - EARLY - Rip off the band-aid
 - A Week before Contest.
 - (If you advance) A Week before a difficult Round.



Make Rehearsal a Place People Want to Be.

- “You can’t have a good product without people who like coming to work” -Gordon Bethune
- Work Along Side Them.
- Theatre is a celebration. It is called a play. Find the play.
- “Spider John” - Noah in the Potato Sack - Lisan Al Gaib - (Inside Jokes)
 - **MAKE ROOM FOR GOOFING OFF.** This is where your kids build bonds with each other and build **TRUST** with you.



Make Rehearsal a Place People Want to Be.

- HONOR it by doing it to the BEST of your ability. (NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED YOU'LL GET YELLED AT)



Find Your Why and Let It Guide Your WHOLE YEAR.

- My WHY - Find the Joy and Build Empathy.
- Set your expectations and hold them to those expectations.
- NOT EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS ARE THE SAME - YOUR WHY may not be MY WHY
- What's right for one person might not be right for you. You're both right.
 - Honda Odyssey vs. Ferrari F430 (Which one is better depends on WHY you want a car.)
- EVERY CHOICE YOU MAKE should be in line with your WHY

Good Advice (Most of this is stolen)

- **CASTING:** The judge has no idea how much that kid has grown, they only see them on THAT day. ALWAYS keep this in mind.
- **PROCRASTINATE LIKE A PROFESSIONAL:** Set deadlines for yourself, make them earlier than necessary. If you tell me I have until Dec 15th to mail my script... Guess what day I'll start on my cutting..
- Stop yelling at them. Who wants to work for a boss that just screams?
- Time OFF is as important as Time ON. Make room for the people in your company, and their complicated lives (and schedules).
- Nothing is sacred, Keeping it FRESH is the most important thing.

Good Advice (Most of this is stolen)

- Two ways to influence people's behavior: Manipulation and Inspiration
- Manipulation (Fear, Guilt, Carrot and Stick) is effective in the short term, but doesn't help build trust.
- When you do the hard work of getting the right people in the room with you, people whose values align with yours. Whose WHY matches your WHY. **You don't need to manipulate them to get them to behave the way you need them to.**
- EMPOWER THEM (Thank you Erin Moore), Stop doing everything yourself.
- Find YOUR Time of Day and Do Your Thinking/Planning Then. Mine is the morning time, and it's why I wake up early.
- As the Director, the Buck stops with you. Don't play the blame game.

Final Thoughts

- Luck is having the right kids for the right play.
- Knowing and effectively communicating your WHY will get those kids in the room and IN YOUR CORNER.
- Learn from people who know more than you, and ASK FOR HELP.
- Journal.
- Stick to your guns. If you FEEL something, and can't quite explain it. DON'T ABANDON THAT INSTINCT
- Don't copy, try to understand WHY



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Registration link,
presentations and handouts
are available on the website.

*Remember to register your
attendance for each session.*

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Handouts & More