



## ACT I

### Prologue

Jesús Palenzuela

### Scene 1 Sanctuary

Clio Hancock, Henry Koskoff, Jesús Palenzuela

*Based on original participant observation done in Atlanta and Florida, this piece looks at the range of human interactions with nature by blending together creative writing pieces from the three ensemble members. We focused on seeing the beauty and vitality of nature, something that is often overlooked in the daily rush of life. A particular inspiration was the name of Emory's Lullwater Preserve, which forced us to stop and think about the implications of freezing nature in one place.*

### Scene 2 Destination But No Journey

Abhi Manda, Gena Lee, Erin Sheena

*"Destination But No Journey" takes individuals through a sound experience of sitting in Emory's main quadrangle. In a place surrounded by Emory's history and natural beauty, the students seek to understand the space better and its integration with nature and humans. This play uncovers new meanings in the way we use our spaces on and off campus and how humans interact with those spaces as well as each other. Documenting our senses to see, feel, and listen like never before, we take viewers on a journey where their destination is unknown.*

### Scene 3 I'm Reminded That I'm Not Alone

Ellie Cottrill, Andres Lebed, and Jemila Mussa

*"I'm Reminded That I'm Not Alone" is a description of the general feeling of contemplating a nice afternoon in a park. This overall feeling is a compendium of visual, auditory, and tactile stimuli. The narration has a poetic nature as it is a hybrid of three different experiences by three different ethnographers. This scene is delivered in fragments with each narrator reading out a sentence. This technique mimics what the ethnographers experienced at the park and displays the reality that nature isn't always fluid.*

### Scene 4 Breeze

Baylee Walls, Katie Boak, Tierney Lanter

*In this scene, we escape into a beautiful coffee cafe filled with quiet chatter, scents of freshly brewed coffee, and soft live music. It is an environment that is low-stress, casual, and peaceful. The cafe allows for an escape away from the lethal pandemic raging outside its walls. Although people are still taking serious precautions it feels*

*peaceful and almost normal despite the face masks and six feet distances. An empty sidewalk outside the cafe reminds us of the reality of the world; however, the cafe brings people in to take a breath, sit, and drink a deliciously warm beverage, coffee.*

### **Scene 5 God Is Bigger Than the King**

Charita Sodagum, Melika Mohammadi

*“God is Bigger Than the King” is a descriptive narration of the concept of home. The scene begins with a broader observation of the elements that compose this earth: the cloudless sky, cool fresh air, people coming and going, life moving on. Even when all the buildings look the same from the outside, we know that every house is different. There are struggles people face even on a bright sunny day. And yet even though we are all struggling, life continues to move on.*

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 1 Prologue a**

Abhi Manda, Gena Lee, Erin Sheena

### **Scene 2 Prologue b**

Clio Hancock, Henry Koskoff, Jesús Palenzuela

### **Scene 3 A Bird’s Life**

Clio Hancock, Henry Koskoff, Jesús Palenzuela

*From several ethnographic sessions conducted with birds, we distilled our findings into a narrative between three different types of birds and a human ethnographer. We found it particularly*

*interesting how birds exist in and between three planes: ground-level/water, tree branches, and the sky. The birds chosen represent one of each of these spaces, and are based on a distinct experience from each of the three ethnographers (played by the actor from which the work originated).*

### **Scene 4 Sedentary As Time Goes On**

Charita Sodagum, Ashley Rivas-Triana, Melika Mohammadi

*“Sedentary As Time Goes On” portrays the interactions of an oak tree with its environment through the lens of a young ethnographer interviewing the tree. The scene starts with the ethnographer unsuccessfully attempting to receive direct answers from the oak tree. However, it continues as she discerns the answers to her questions from the environmental cues presented by the catastrophes and occurrences around the tree. Eventually, the scene captures the feelings of the oak tree as she stands still and watches the seasons change, the years pass, and the people come and go.*

### **Scene 5 A Tale of Two Blades**

Baylee Walls, Katie Boak, Tierney Lanter

*“A Tale of Two Blades” is a short skit about a young ethnographer’s recounting of a conversation with two very contrasting blades of grass in Lullwater Park. As the grass answers various questions about recent weather conditions and varying lifestyles views, she learns that not all grass is the same. They experience different interpretations on things such as rain, sunlight, and human interaction. The dichotomy of these two blades add a heightened understanding of the complexity of non-human interactions present in society.*

## Scene 6 Seeing Solitude Through a Squirrel

Ellie Cottrill, Andres Lebed, and Jemila Mussa

*“Seeing Solitude Through a Squirrel” depicts Jemila’s ethnographic observations and interactions with two different squirrels in Lullwater park. Jemila first observes two squirrels that look to be fighting over territory of a tree. She then tries to interview one of these squirrels, coercing it with bird seeds, but quickly realizes that this squirrel does not want to be seen or talked to. On her way out of the park, Jemila hears another squirrel by the water, and when she goes over to investigate, she notices that this squirrel has similar fears of humans and other species. Our scene is meant to highlight the solitude nature of squirrels and give the audience a glimpse into the social behaviors and (lack) of social interactions between squirrels and the outside world.*

## Scene 7 Changes

Abhi Manda, Gena Lee, Erin Sheena

*“Changes” is a powerful scene that portrays the frustration between an ethnographer’s inability to communicate with nonhuman species, as well as, the nonhuman species’ inability to communicate with the ethnographer. It indicts the University and broader society for infringing on the autonomy of trees and showcases the frustration of the nonhuman species with performative activism.*

## CAST

**Katie Boak** is a junior studying anthropology and human biology on the pre-med track at Emory University. She was born and raised by the Jersey Shore alongside her two older sisters and dog. She is ecstatic for her debut Zoom performance! Outside of academics and performing, Katie enjoys yoga, tutoring, and cooking.

**Ellie Cottrill.** I am a sophomore at Emory studying Business and Anthropology. I am from Northern California, but I am currently living in Atlanta for the school year. At home, I have three siblings and two dogs. At Emory, I am interested in exploring the fusion between business and Anthropology by investigating the reasons behind the choices people make and how these decisions impact the economy.

**Clio Hancock** is a junior, and this is her first ever experience on the (virtual) stage! As an anthropology and chemistry double major, she really enjoys figuring out systems of meaning—whether in the material sciences or among human cultures! She is a member of the swim team here at Emory as well.

**Henry Koskoff** is a second-year Creative Writing and Anthropology major. He loves to dance, draw and write poetry in his free time. His favorite part of Anthropology is being able to dissect everyday social phenomena that is otherwise taken for granted. While this is far from Henry’s first performance, he is not used to acting, especially on the “virtual stage.”

**Tierney Lanter** is a junior at Emory. She is majoring in anthropology and human biology and minoring in sociology on the pre-medicine track. This will be Tierney’s first time performing on stage! In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer on the women’s soccer team and helping pre-health students in her new club.

**Andres Lebed.** I am a junior at Emory University studying Psychology and Anthropology. I am from Guayaquil, Ecuador, but I am currently living in Decatur during this school year. I have a younger and an older brother. I have 4 dogs and a cat. I am really interested in topics such as psychology, anthropology, philosophy, and economics. I also like to play tennis, listen to music, and cook.

**Gena Lee** is a sophomore at Emory University studying Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology. Although she has experience playing music on stage, this will be her first theatrical performance! In her free time, she enjoys biking, discovering new music, and playing ultimate frisbee.

**Abhi Manda.** I am a sophomore majoring in Anthropology and Human Biology on the pre-medicine track. I have very little experience in theater, but have been a part of ethnographic projects in the past before. In my free time, I love to journal, watch football, and run in Lullwater park!

**Melika Mohammadi** is a junior studying Anthropology and Human Biology and Political Science. Her only experience on the stage has been playing the role of a garlic in a Norooz show when she was 6. She enjoys playing soccer, spending time with her grandparents, and traveling.

**Jemila Mussa.** I am a senior international student from Ethiopia. I am majoring in Anthropology and Human Biology and am interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field. I am currently living in Atlanta. I have six siblings and have three cats back home. I really enjoy photography, making beats, and volunteering.

**Jesús Palenzuela** is a sophomore studying Environmental Science (Social Sciences & Policy) and Economics from Miami, Florida. His only real theater performance experience was being Joseph for a nativity play in

elementary school. Outside of the classroom he enjoys boxing, wildlife photography, cooking, and discovering new music.

**Ashley Rivas-Triana** is a senior in the college majoring in Anthropology with a Media Studies minor. Born in Aguascalientes, Mexico and raised in Lawrenceville, GA, she now lives in Atlanta, GA. While this is her first time “on the stage”, she enjoys a variety of creative outlets, such as crafting, graphic design, and screen printing, which she hopes will help inform her work as she continues to learn about and explore theater.

**Erin Sheena.** I am a senior from Houston, TX studying Quantitative Sciences with a concentration in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology and a minor in ethics. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in public interest law. In my free time I enjoy hiking, embroidering, and baking.

**Charita Sodagum.** I am a junior from New Jersey, studying Philosophy, Politics, and Law. Being on the pre-law track this is my first taste into the art of theater, but I have really been enjoying it! Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, painting, and dancing.

**Baylee Walls.** I am currently a junior at Emory University. I am pre-med, but my primary area of study is Anthropology and Human Biology. I am from Villa Rica, Georgia, but currently residing in Atlanta. I have one sister who is 14, as well as 5 dogs. Some things I enjoy are hiking, swimming, and reading novels.

**Prof. Debra Vidali** is an anthropologist, theater-maker, artist, and scholar-activist. Her work centers on building bridges across disciplines and experimenting with the modalities, frontiers, and implications of knowledge production. Recent projects focus on: multimodal/multisensorial ethnography, civic engagement, social justice & human rights, and Indigenous sovereignty.