

Bookbinding

for a small group of improvisers

Stephen F. Lilly

(2017)

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Written for How Things Are Made.

Preparation (*typically done prior to performance*)

Collect Dialog.

- With the exception of variation 3 (see below), all selected lines should be people and/or characters speaking, i.e. text in a novel that would typically be enclosed in quotation marks.
- Digital books may be used, but physical books should be preferred.
- Seek out books by authors from underrepresented communities.
- Spoken dialog (to be played back during performance rather than read) can be collected digitally from audiobooks or language tutorials.

Construction

Set up in the style of a roundtable discussion and create (i.e. speak) a conversation from the collected dialog. Seek cohesion. The conversation should last as long as it needs to.

Performers may emphasize or exaggerate with nondestructive book sounds (e.g. slamming books shut, turning pages, or quickly thumbing through). These sounds may be electronically amplified with or without time-based effects.

Variations

- 1) Use only banned books, i.e. books targeted for destruction, removal, or censorship by any authority—school board, government, retailer, etc.
- 2) Use only phrase books and language textbooks.
- 3) Use only books of quotations.