

Assignment #1: Cultural Shares

Whether we recognize it or not (or are willing to admit it), we carry the cultures that raised us, surround us, and inform every project we work on, every line we write as playwrights, and every space we inhabit. Often we aren't aware we channel these cultural values, especially when we aren't explicitly communicating them or sharing them.

This is our shared definition of culture: **the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social groups.**

As creatives, we must understand our artistic impulses and their origins. It's equally vital that we know how our colleagues and fellow collaborators are informed by their cultures and cultural values.

***The more we humanize each other,
the harder it is to dehumanize each other.***

So to help us develop that muscle, for the next class, you will do the following:

1. **Bring something to share from one of your cultures.** Your definition of your culture is your definition. It could be your ethnicity, family, background, neighborhood, lifestyle, etc. Your "something" could be a physical object, a piece of art, a photograph, a song, a dance...anything from your I've seen everything from food to skateboards. It's really up to you.
2. **Prepare a quick 2-3 minute story about your item.** Where did it come from? How did you first encounter it? Why is it important to you? Remember that all stories have a flow. They begin, they explore a question, then they resolve.
3. **Present your story.** Yeah, that's right! We are gonna get our storyteller on in this space and share our knowledge. You'll need to share your story and cultural share with the class, so be ready to speak up!

I'm so excited to see what you will share!