



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Theater: A Mask Performance Workshop, *Specialty Track 1*

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SUMMARY:	Fellows will get to play with professional actor Jon Adam Ross in this workshop where we will explore how Masks can be a tool for having conversations about God and spirituality at camp. - <i>Submitted by Jon Adam Ross</i>
TOPICS:	Communication Skills, Dance and Movement, Identity, Jewish Text, Performance, Spirituality, Theater, Visual Arts
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	To give counselors a low-barrier-of-entry tool to create a comfortable environment for conversations about spirituality and God at camp, while also providing Jewish texts to enrich the conversation.
AUDIENCE:	any age
LENGTH:	60-75 Minutes
APPENDICES:	text for jar mask track 1
MATERIALS:	you can use poster board and have people make their own masks if you have time - that's even better. then you'd need markers too. that's it!
SETTING:	wide open space, no furniture

Session Description:

Introduction - We will play a name game.

Warmup - I will lead the fellows through several warm up exercises to get them thinking with their bodies, and trying new voices.

- circle jump
- can I have your space
- doorbells
- i can place my voice anywhere i'd like

Then we will sit in a circle. I will ask everyone to forget their names. Even though we've just learned who everyone is, we're going to create new identities. I will place a bag of masks in the middle of the circle and explain what will happen next. A Masking Ceremony! I will teach everyone the blessing "Baruch Atah Hashem Pokeach Ivrim" - open my eyes. And then once they've learned that blessing, I'll teach them the rules of putting on a mask. No one can see you put it on. You must go somewhere else and come back when you're ready to face the group with your new face. One by one each person will be invited to stand up, pick a mask from the bag, stand in the middle of the circle to say the blessing, and then leave the circle to put their mask on. When they return, they introduce themselves, now masked, to the circle, nonverbally.

Finding the Body:

We will then do an exercise of mirroring - finding your body in someone else's. The mirroring will have fellows facing each other and mirroring the body movements of their partner. We will switch back and forth and then have no leader.



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The fellows will then be invited to walk through the space as themselves, and to test leading from different parts of their body until they find their new identity's walk/gait. I will give the fellows time to practice their walks.

Finding the Voice:

I will then have the fellows add sound to their walking. Where does the voice for your mask live in your body? High? Low? Soft? Loud?

I will then ask everyone to join the circle, masks still on, and we will play the games from before

- Can I have your space
- Circle Jump
- Doorbells

We will then go for a walk around camp, exploring the space in our masks. Finding fun things to explore with our new identities, our new eyes, our new ears, our new bodies. As if born again, and everything old is new. We will return back to our space, and sit in the circle.

I will then ask everyone at once to turn around away from the circle, take off their masks, and rejoin the circle and sit.

We will debrief that experience and then I will teach the text of Ki Tissa - Moses's story of encountering god and having to mask his face twice. And we will talk about what masks imply. (robbery? zorro? batman?) And we will discuss what masks might have to say about hiding spiritual glow (a good thing) versus hiding bad things (scars, etc.)