Theater: Massaging the Tight Spots

*[Specialty Track 2]*

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| **AUTHOR(S):** | Jon Adam Ross |
| **SUMMARY:** | 2017 is a year filled with difficult conversations. The time is NOW to work together to hear each other, to question each other, and to work through the tight spots. You will play with actor/playwright Jon Adam Ross, founding artist of [The In[heir]itance Project](http://postandcourier.com/20160507/160509537/the-rebecca-play-innovative-theater-project-uses-book-of-genesis-as-its-genesis), to explore difficult conversations through a theater process inspired by his work in Charleston, SC. |
| **TOPIC(S):** | Theater, Communication Skills |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** | Participants will learn tools for devising theater, exercises for generating material, and strategies for lowering the barrier of entry for personal, deep, and complex conversations. |
| **AUDIENCE:** | Any audience |
| **TIMING:** | 60 minutes |
| **APPENDICES:** | none |
| **MATERIALS NEEDED:** | Paper, Pens |
| **SET-UP DETAILS:** | Any open space with room to move around  No furniture is ideal - just wide open. |

**Session Timeline & Outline:**

* Warming Up - exercises to prep for the session
  + Physical warmup
    - Tableaus
  + Vocal warmup
    - I can place my voice...
  + Character warmup
    - Doorbells
* Breaking down the elements
  + Defining sacred text - We will discuss the definition of the word “sacred” and then determine as a group what makes a text “sacred.”
  + Bibliography - We will populate a list of sacred texts that fit the definition from the first step.
  + Difficult Conversations - separate from the text conversation, we will generate a list of difficult conversation topics with campers, staff, and adults in camp that have come up in the past or might arise in the coming summer.
  + Pairing - We will match the difficult conversations with sacred texts.
  + Revisiting the model
    - Discuss the experience of the day before.
    - Review the steps.
    - Remake the model.

**Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:**

This is the second session in a process. You could break it down and spread this out over a few sessions, or repeat with multiple texts for the same or different characters.