

# fragments of a shy rage.

a girl walks into a bar.

yet another person pokes her as she tries her best to suppress her politely cleansed fury. she moves through her day-to-day life while the poking ensues. the girl can't remember when it began. there doesn't appear to be a comforting end.

nor a punchline.

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## **STATEMENT OF EQUITY.**

We are an equality-focused organization hiring performers from diverse backgrounds.

All are welcome to apply.

Mind you, we are only sending this to a certain demographic of people.

Also diversity is encouraged but maybe not disability because accessibility is expensive.

## **CASTING.**

Deaf character of a certain age who speaks sign language.

Actor must know sign language.

Or must just be willing to learn sign language from this randomly selected YouTube video.

Does not have to actually be Deaf.

Person casting does not know sign language so has no idea if you are any good or if you are even signing the right sign language.

Production team has no idea there are different signed languages.

Also that is stupid - why don't you all just use the same one?

Casting will end up selecting a hearing actor who is terrible at sign language instead of a real Deaf person because it is easier and it is cheaper.

Deaf people will hate the show because they won't understand the terrible and incoherent sign language.

The actor will win an award because all the hearing people cried during the performance.

"Sign language is so beautiful."

## **RIDDLE.**

If a theatre company features sign language in a production, does not offer interpretation, and the Deaf community can't access the occasion - is it still beautiful?

## **DEAR PATRON.**

Yes, our building is accessible.

Should you need it, we've built a pristine new ramp that leads you directly into the building.

It was very expensive.

Please note that the washroom stalls are narrow and it is probable that your wheelchair won't fit, nor will you be able to open the washroom door without assistance.

Patrons are required to use stairs to get to the performance space but the event will be streamed onto our nicest wall so as long as you hold it in and remain in the lobby, we'll be happy to have you at our venue.

**RIDDLE.**

How many times does a ramp have to be used to justify the cost?

**RIDDLE.**

If a ramp is built in the middle of a forest and no one knows it exists -can we still include it in our grant application?

**DEAR PATRON.**

Yes, our event will offer interpretation services.

Interpreters are very expensive.

We've offered this service before but no Deaf people came.

We don't ever market within your community nor do we ever ask for feedback however we always remember to take photos of the interpreters which have proven successful in obtaining more funding.

We have won several inclusion awards and are very much looking forward to having you at our upcoming spectacle.

P.S. Did you see the video of that hearing girl signing rap? Here's a link. Sign language is so cool.

**DEAR BATMAN.**

We are proud to make our event accessible.

We've decided to promote our accessibility initiatives on Facebook and our e-newsletter by providing pertinent information at the bottom in tiny font.

Only members of our own community follow us and no one else knows we exist.

We thank you for giving us copyright permission to use an accessibility bat signal for all disabled folks to know when to come to our shows.

We look forward to their gratitude as we assume they have nothing else going on and are waiting for the nightly call.

**RIDDLE.**

If you host an event and hire interpreters but no Deaf people attend - who do you blame?

**DEAR SELF-DECLARED NORMALS.**

Have you ever been the only person in a room where you're surrounded by people who live differently than you?

Is it weird to discover that your normal isn't the same normal as their normal?

Is one of you doing it wrong?

Is your way better or just easier?

**SHOWER THOUGHTS.**

The brilliance of The Other is an untapped resource.

**RIDDLE.**

If a person's abilities are different than yours - are their lives less valuable?

**SHOWER THOUGHTS.**

The average human thinking about disability is often imaginatively stunted.

## **AN ATTEMPT TO SOUND LIKE A WRITER.**

Accessibility is said to represent a bridge from one side to another.

That bridge can theoretically be crossed in either direction.

That bridge is presented to The Other as if they should be grateful that someone has bestowed upon them a way to cross.

But The Other could perhaps fly.

Or swim.

Or they could kayak or canoe or dragonboat.

Or chill on their own side.

They could build their own bridge.

They could cross a different bridge altogether.

Many of these bridges are of shoddy quality or quick to be abandoned once any feedback or requests for maintenance comes in.

Often the bridge leads to a place where no one even asked to go.

And why the assumption that your side is so great anyway?

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## **BIO.**

Jennifer Roberts is a Montreal-based actor who was raised by a lovely family who happens to also be Deaf. She agrees that American Sign Language is beautiful. This piece is inspired by several film casting calls and events she has witnessed throughout her career. She's been encouraged to work on expressing her anger; this is one attempt.