

Steppenwolf Education's Maker May Week 3 – MAKER CHALLENGE A Deep Dive Into *Erik & Jessie & Everyone You Know* Variety Show

The Challenge: You will create a proposal for an Act of Artistic Generosity that you will conduct in the near future. *Examples and a step by step process below.*

- What does an Act of Artistic Generosity mean?
 - **Act** – an event that will occur on a specific day and time where both “performer” and “audience” are active participants. Think of it more like a gift.
 - **Artistic** – the gift is elevated by a performative aspect.
 - **Generosity** – the root of the gift puts intention above ego. “I’m willing to take an emotional risk for the recipient.”

This Act of Artistic Generosity should answer the following questions:

1. **Who is this act specifically for, who is my targeted audience?**

Examples: (a) *My mother who lives in Washington.* (b) *My next door neighbors.* (c) *My roommate.* (d) *The staff at Prentice Hospital.*

2. **How would your target audience benefit from this act?**

Examples: (a) *My mother has been isolated and lonely. I’m determined to help her feel less alone and loved.* (b) *My neighbors have a newborn and are stressed out. I hope this would give them a brief respite of joy and relaxation.* (c) *My roommate is dealing with anxiety and has been watching too many reruns of Survivor. I’m willing to get weird to remind them that I see them and will meet them where they are.* (d) *The staff at the hospital are actual heroes. I want them to feel recognized and appreciated.*

3. **How does this act challenge YOU?**

Examples: (a) *I’m not a singer, but I’m willing to belt out the entirety of “I Will Always Love You” (the Whitney version) to my mother over the phone because it is her favorite song.* (b) *I will learn how to make a slideshow on my computer of Tropical Locations and dub a soothing self-written meditation over it for my neighbors to enjoy.* (c) *I will organize a challenge, a la Survivor, in our living room where my roommate and I must eat strange food combinations from our refrigerator. This challenges me and my stomach.* (d) *There are many moving pieces to make a safe/socially distanced/hospital approved 10-minute concert happen in the parking lot during shift change, but ya know what? I’m going to start asking around and find the proper channels and resources to make it happen.*

For Thursday, May 21:

Come ready to share: Some participants will have an opportunity to opt into sharing plans for their **Act of Artistic Generosity** with Erik Hellman and Jessie Fisher. This is an opportunity to get feedback from the guest artists and generate ideas around aspects you might feel stuck about.

Come with one or two specific questions you have about your Act of Artistic Generosity to discuss with Erik, Jessie, and the webinar.

Examples: (a) *My mom doesn't know how to use Zoom and has a flip phone...what's the best way for me to perform this song for her?* (b) *I want to be there for my neighbors but how can I be sure this what they need right now?* (c) *I do not want my roommate to think I am minimizing their love of Survivor, is this Act of Artistic Generosity honoring their devotion and does it sound like it will bring them some joy?* (d) *I love my concert idea, but I am in a little over my head. How can I simplify but keep the same core to my idea?*

Don't worry about your plans being finalized. You only had 48 hours to start brainstorming! This is an in-process sharing of our collective work. No worries if you would not like share, only a handful of participants will have the opportunity to share out with Erik and Jessie. Erik and Jessie will have also completed the challenge, and will give us insight into their creation process, and you'll hear the feedback they give others.

Enjoy making and we will see you Thursday, May 21!

Next Steps: ***after the workshop on Thursday, May 21***

Erik & Jessie are hoping that after you complete your **Act of Artistic Generosity** you will share a small relic or artifact of how it went with them. So, your next steps are...

- Determine the **specific date** you will complete your Act of Artistic Generosity.
- **Do not capture and share the entire event with them.** It is a singular experience for performer and audience.
- **PLEASE DO retain a relic or artifact.** This means capturing a piece of evidence of the act either prior to or post "performance".

Examples: (a) *A video of me getting the karaoke track ready to call my mom. OR a voicemail from my mom telling me she will always be my Bodyguard.* (b) *A sample image from my slide show OR a picture of my neighbors they sent me as a thank you.* (c) *A clip of me preparing strange food OR a video post gift of me asking my roommate if she'd vote me off the Island.* (d) *A spreadsheet of all my points of contact OR an email I received from a nurse from the hospital.*

Share your work with Erik & Jessie:

Please share this relic or artifact by emailing erikandjessieshow@gmail.com and/or tag your relic on social media to Instagram at [@erikandjessieshow](https://www.instagram.com/erikandjessieshow) and use the hashtag **#virtualstepped**. **With your permission, Erik & Jessie will compile a montage of relics to include in their upcoming Virtual Variety show!**