



GROUP ACTIVITY: HUMAN BAROMETER

This activity is a great way to get a group of people talking. Gather with friends, family or peers and find out what role television plays in your lives by using the different sides of the room to create a “human barometer”! Each side of the room will represent the extreme answers, and based on your personal response to the question, you will place yourself anywhere between the two opposite sides that correspond with your answer. Once everyone is in place, start a discussion! Have a few people discuss where they place themselves along the barometer and why.

- 1. How much television do you watch each day?** The right side of the room represents 5 hours, the left side of the room represents 0 hours.
- 2. How much time do you spend with your family each day?** The right side of the room represents 5 hours, the left side of the room represents 0 hours.
- 3. Consider the statement: “I prefer watching television over spending time with my family.”** The right side of the room represents “Completely Agree,” the left side of the room represents “Completely Disagree.”
- 4. How often do you see violence on television?** The right side of the room indicates that you see a lot of violence on television, the left side of the room indicates that you see very little violence on television. (This includes news reports, fictional shows, tv movies, etc.)
- 5. How often do you find yourself encountering problems with aggression, not excluding instances of your own aggression?** The right side of the room represents never, the left side of the room represents almost always
- 6. Taking all of these responses into consideration, how much would you say that television affects your decisions, attitude, and lifestyle?** The right side of the room indicates that it affects all of the decisions that you make in life, the left side of the room indicates that it affects you very little and does not inform who you are today.

Some Questions to Continue the Conversation:

How does television affect us and to what extent?

Considering this, what do you think people should try to watch more of and less of on television?

How do you think watching “Mister Rogers” affected Sherie’s behavior, choices, and outlook on life?

Considering both the negative (i.e. violence, lack of family time) and positive affects (ie educational programming), rate in a final human barometer how “good” or “bad” you think television is in relation to its affect on people. The right side of the room indicates that you think television is “good” for you, the right side of the room indicates that you think television is “bad” for you.

Some Facts & Suggestions to Coincide with the Barometer Activity Questions

- Kids and Teens 8 to 18 years spend nearly 4 hours a day in front of a TV screen.
- If you don’t spend a lot of time with your family try a weekday ban on TV so you can have more family time together.
- Compromise! Find shows the whole family enjoys and can watch together. Than you can spend time together and will watch carefully chosen programs, nothing mindless and boring.
- The average American child will witness 200,000 violent acts on television by age 18. Kids may become desensitized to violence and more aggressive. (www.KidsHealth.org)
- TV violence sometimes begs for imitation because violence is often promoted as a fun and effective way to get what you want. Children cannot always distinguish between fantasy and reality. (KidsHealth.org).
- Children are exposed to commercials and marketing ploys, adult and sexual content and violence for hours on end each week. It comes as no surprise that it can create different reactions and results in everyone.

Thank you to the following organizations for their support of Second Stage Theatre’s Education and Outreach Programs:

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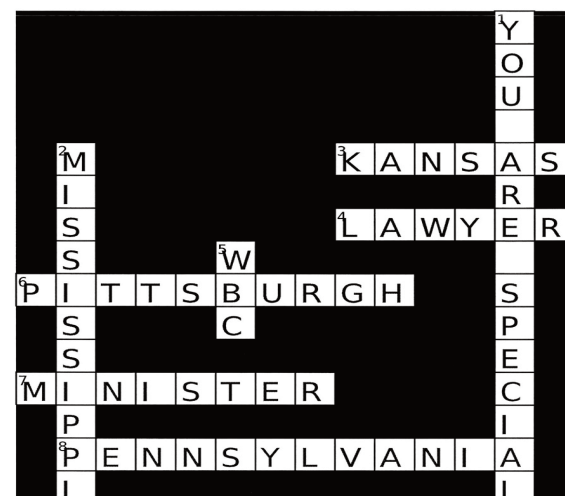
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Everyday Rapture photos by Carol Rosegg



2ST

MAY 2009



EVERYDAY RAPTURE

BY DICK SCANLAN and SHERIE RENE SCOTT

MUSICAL STAGING BY MICHELE LYNCH

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MAYER

with Eamon Foley, Lindsay Mendez,
Sherie Rene Scott, Betsy Wolfe

2econdStageTheatre

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

THIS IS MY STORY

Everyday Rapture, written by Sherie Rene Scott and Dick Scanlan, is partly based on Scott's personal stories that paved her journey to Broadway. Scott describes the show as, "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—just better." In the show, Sherie wonders whether or not she is a speck of dust or if her life is meaningful or perhaps a balance of both. Since the show is semi-autobiographical, Sherie Rene Scott has been able to tell her life story, or personal narrative through a one-woman show. Check out some other ways that people have shared their personal narratives...



BOOKS: David Sedaris

David Sedaris is a best-selling author who has written many humorous novels and collections of essays, which are based on his life experiences. His most famous books include *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*.



STAND-UP COMEDY: Margaret Cho

Margaret Cho is a comedian that became famous after the debut of her one-woman Off-Broadway show, *I'm The One That I Want*, and the smash-hit tour and film entitled *Notorious C.H.O.* She has said that her shows are, "100% true...if anything, I temper the truth with humor."



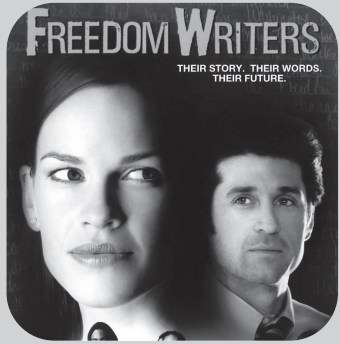
DOCUMENTARY: Morgan Spurlock

Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock directed his Academy Award-nominated documentary, *Supersize Me*, which comments on the effects of fast food in American culture. The film follows Spurlock in his venture to eat nothing but McDonald's for an entire month.



POETRY: Maya Angelou

The poet and award-winning writer, Maya Angelou, has written several autobiographical books and poetry collections including, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*, *I Shall Not Be Moved*, and *Poetry for Young People*.



FILM: "Freedom Writers"

Hilary Swank stars in the film, *Freedom Writers*, which is based on a true story. The film was adapted from the book of journals entitled, *Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*. The movie tells the story of a teacher, Erin Gruwell, and how she used writing to inspire her students.



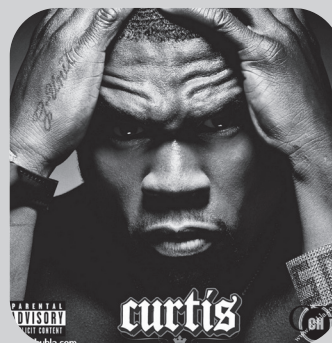
ART: James de la Vega

Graffiti artist and activist, James De La Vega, is best known for his chalk drawings and murals on the sidewalks and buildings of New York City, particularly in East Harlem. Much of his art is inspired by his Puerto Rican heritage and his recognition of gentrification moving from the Upper East Side into East Harlem.



PLAYS: Neil Simon

Neil Simon is a successful American playwright that has "drawn extensively from his own life and experience for material for his plays." The best example is his autobiographical "Eugene Trilogy," which includes *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *Broadway Bound*. It spans from his adolescence in New York to his career as a comedy writer.



MUSIC: Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson starred in the movie, *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*, and recorded a new album to complement the film. He describes the semi-autobiographical film as a "collage of my life." The film tells the story of an orphan living on the streets who gets involved in the drug trade, but finally escapes to pursue his dream of being a rap artist.



MEMOIR: Ishmael Beah

Ishmael Beah tells his remarkable story of being separated from his parents at age twelve and recruited into the government army of Sierra Leone by a Shakespeare-spouting lieutenant. *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* follows his journey from child to soldier as Beah finds he is capable of killing his enemies.



In *Everyday Rapture*, the main character, "Sherie," takes the audience through various moments of her life that have shaped her as a person.

DRAW A LIFE MAP on the next page that highlights significant moments or events that have changed **the way you think, act, believe, or understand**. You may also include people who have significantly affected your life along the way.

The life map may take any form: timeline, illustrations, a path of stepping-stones, a ladder, a web, etc. **BE CREATIVE!**

(As an example, see Sherie's life map on the following page...)



Sherie Rene Scott

Wall Info Photos +

Edit Information

Basic Information

Networks: _____
Sex: Female
Birthday: February 8, 1967
Hometown: Topeka, KS
Relationship Status: It's Complicated
Interested In: Men
Looking For: _____

Religious Views: Christian - _____

Personal Information

Favorite Music: Judy Garland
Favorite TV Shows: Mr. Rodgers

Pages

See All (1)



Actor



TV Show

Groups

See All (1)

Member of: _____

Advertise

10 Things To Do Before I Die



2ST

A drama infused with comedy that explores how we let go of yesterday so we can find a tomorrow.



Wildflowers



A woman and her troubled son encounter a curious girl, a forest ranger, and an ex-drag queen. The five collide in a summer of botany and sexual awakening.



Next to Normal



2ST

Writers Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey have stocked the musical with beautiful songs that get to the heart of the story- and simply get to the heart."



More Ads

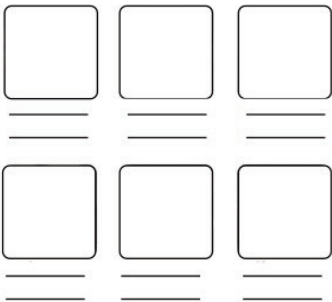
Edit My Profile

Information

Networks: _____
Relationship Status: _____
Birthday: February 8, 1967

Friends

352 friends See All



Compare People

Compare People



Friends voted Sherie

★ _____
★ _____
★ _____

Check your own ranking
Your latest Wins&Losses

Honesty Box

Honesty Box Read your messages

What do you honestly think of me?

Submit Anonymously

Directions

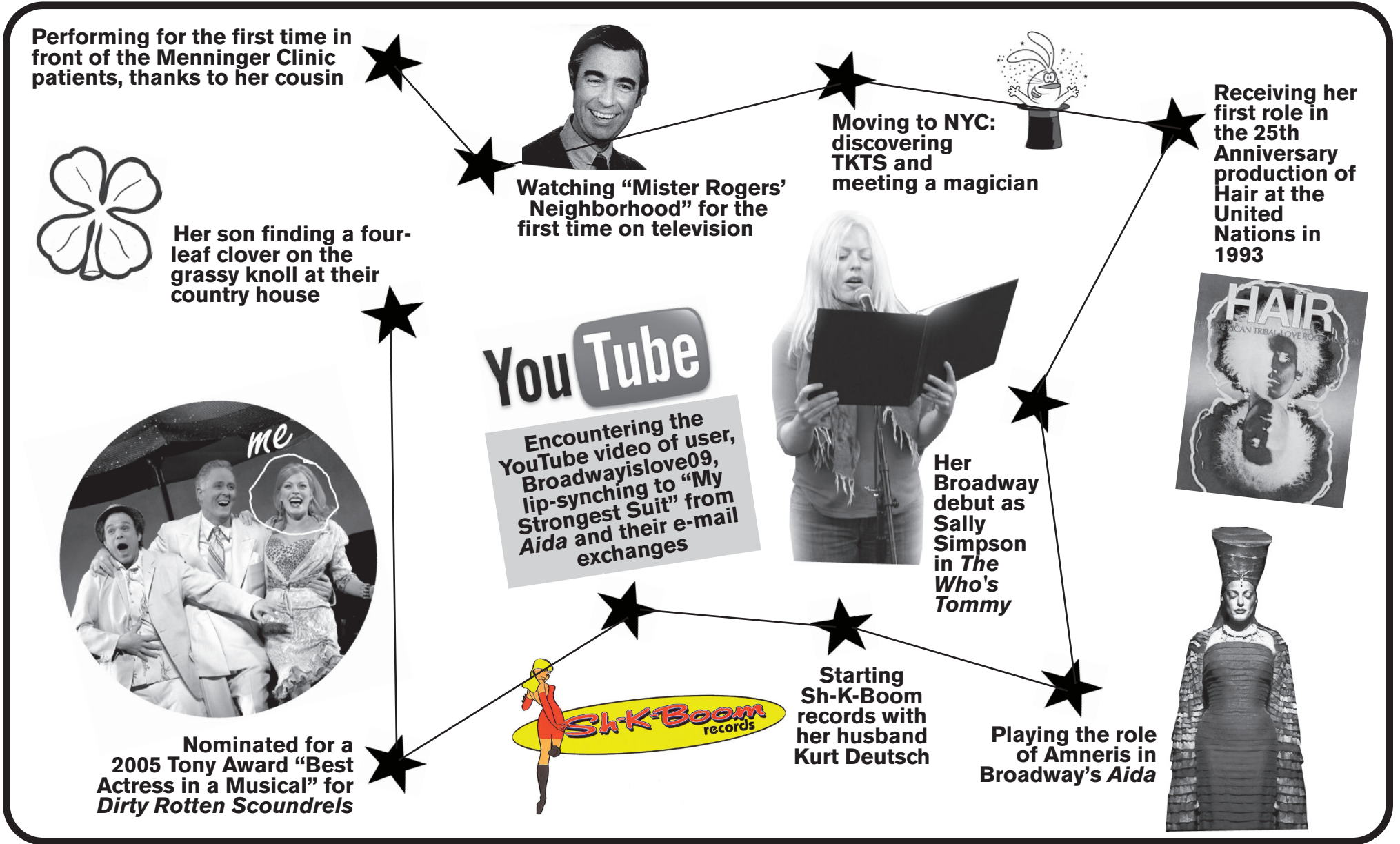
Fill in this mock FaceBook page for Sherie Rene Scott based on the information you gathered from watching *Everyday Rapture*, a semi-autobiographical account of her life. Some of the answers may be obvious, like her religion. For the rest you might have to be a little more creative...



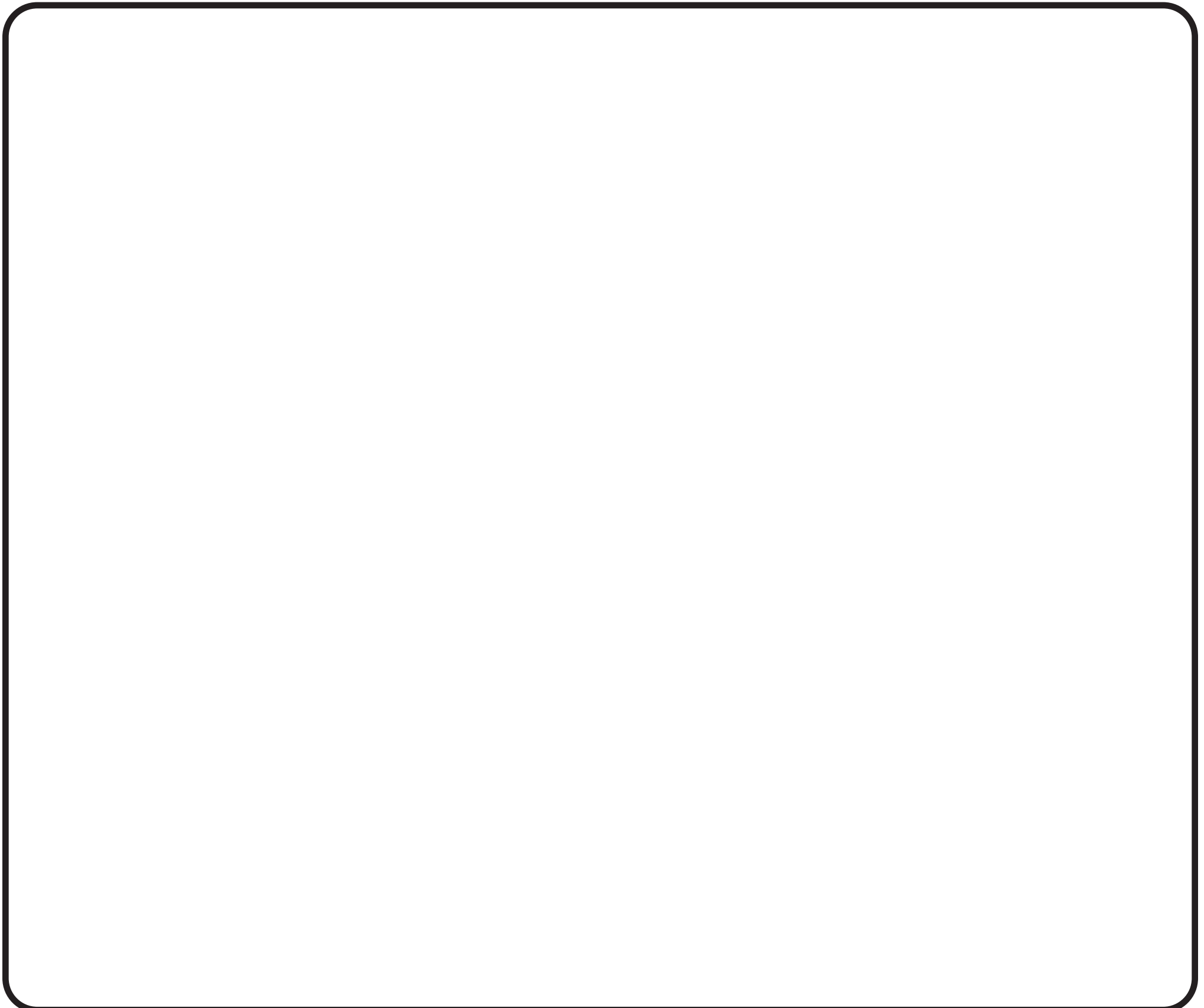
Online Friends (0)



SHERIE'S LIFE MAP



MY LIFE MAP





RESUME

Below are categories of information that could appear on a professional or personal resume. Here is your opportunity to document everything that you have done and experienced. It is your chance to write about you!

CREATE YOUR OWN CHARACTER BASED ON YOUR PERSONA. Don't forget the self-portrait!

DRAW YOURSELF HERE!

PROFILE Describe yourself physically

EXPERIENCE Work Title

EDUCATION What is your favorite school subject? Why?

YOUR NAME

SPECIAL SKILLS What is your favorite activity? Why?

REFERRALS Who has influenced you the most? How?



WRITE YOUR SCENE

Choose a moment from your life-map and with the help of your resume make up a scene to illustrate an important time or event in your life that could be part of a play. Make it interesting, use what you wrote earlier in the resume as a character analysis and create a scene. It could be a good moment to start your career as a playwright!
Remember drama in this case is good!

Which moment, from the life-map, do you feel would make a good scene?

What happens in the scene? (remember to identify a climax, personal motives and a conflict)

Climax (the peak of the story, before the falling action):

Personal Motives (what does your character want in this scene):

Conflict:

Who are the secondary characters in it? (it might be your Dad, friends or a stranger)

How's the action resolved?

QUICK IDEAS!

Building personal narratives will help you have a better understanding of your experiences. Although it is not easy to share personal stories, Sherie Rene Scott uses theatre to portray her life in small vignettes.

With this resume and the illustrated narrative that you have just made, you could make a play about a moment in your life. Make a scene about it and explore different ways of making your own narrative.

Creating your personal narrative could be a good opportunity to begin your life as a playwright, and explore more about yourself and your community. Be sure to make it honest to your memories and experiences.



RELIGION

I BELIEVE...

Sherie grew up in Topeka, Kansas, which she described as a “population [of] 117,983...churches.” She was raised as a conservative Mennonite, an Anabaptist Christian domination, and also knew the infamous Reverend Fred Phelps’ and his family. Interestingly, many people are unaware of this religious sect that makes up over 1 million people worldwide, from U.S. Presidents to actors and even Milton Hershey, the founder of the Hershey chocolate bar. Below are a few facts about this fascinating religion.

WHO ARE THE MENNONITES?

Originated in Switzerland and the Netherlands during the Protestant Reformation

“Mennonite” is named after a man named Menno Simons

Practice “Believer’s Baptism” which means a person is baptized when they are ready to declare their faith

Mennonites are nonviolent and are considered peacemakers

They are leaders in conflict resolution

Almost 20% of Mennonites in the U.S. are Hispanic, African-American or Asian

1.2 million Mennonites worldwide



GUESS THE MENNONITE!



This man created an empire of single sliced cheese and Macaroni & Cheese.



This cartoon character loves good old fashioned donuts.



This president was in office from 1953-1961, and spent most of his energy on the Cold War.



This former N'SYNC member was born into a family of Mennonites.

THE JOURNEY



**“You’re on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go!”**

– Dr. Seuss *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*

Sherie moves from Topeka, Kansas to New York City at the beginning of her adult life. For most, that transition can be daunting and life altering. Sherie grew up in a conservative Mennonite family and moved to one of the largest cities in the country. She was forced to grow up and face adulthood head on much faster than most. The first time most teenagers leave home is when they go to college. Some go to school five minutes away from their childhood home, while others go half way around the world. But, whether or not a young person goes to a local college or a foreign university, the same question remains: what do you take from your childhood with you as you move on to adulthood?

Below are quotes from college graduation speeches delivered by celebrities. Each speaker is giving advice on moving into the real world to people your age or older, but **what advice would you give someone who has just moved to New York City?** It could be to always carry a Metrocard, where the best Thai food is located or even to avoid all the dog poo on the street. Just be honest!

“Create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life because you become what you believe.” - OPRAH WINFREY



“And as you walk your road, as you live your life, RELISH THE ROAD. And relish the fact that the road of your life will probably be a windy road. Something like—the yellow brick road in *The Wizard of Oz*. You see the glory of Oz up ahead – but there are lots of twists and turns along the way – lots of tin men, lots of green women.” - SUSAN LORI-PARKS

“Stay true to what’s best in yourself and to the best of what you’ve experienced... Continue to expose yourself to new ideas. Trust your instincts and think for yourself. Make art, or at least value it. Look for the core of what makes each person human, appreciate the details that make them unique.” - SAMUEL L. JACKSON



“You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. You can't get there by bus, only by hard work and risk and by not quite knowing what you're doing, but what you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself.”

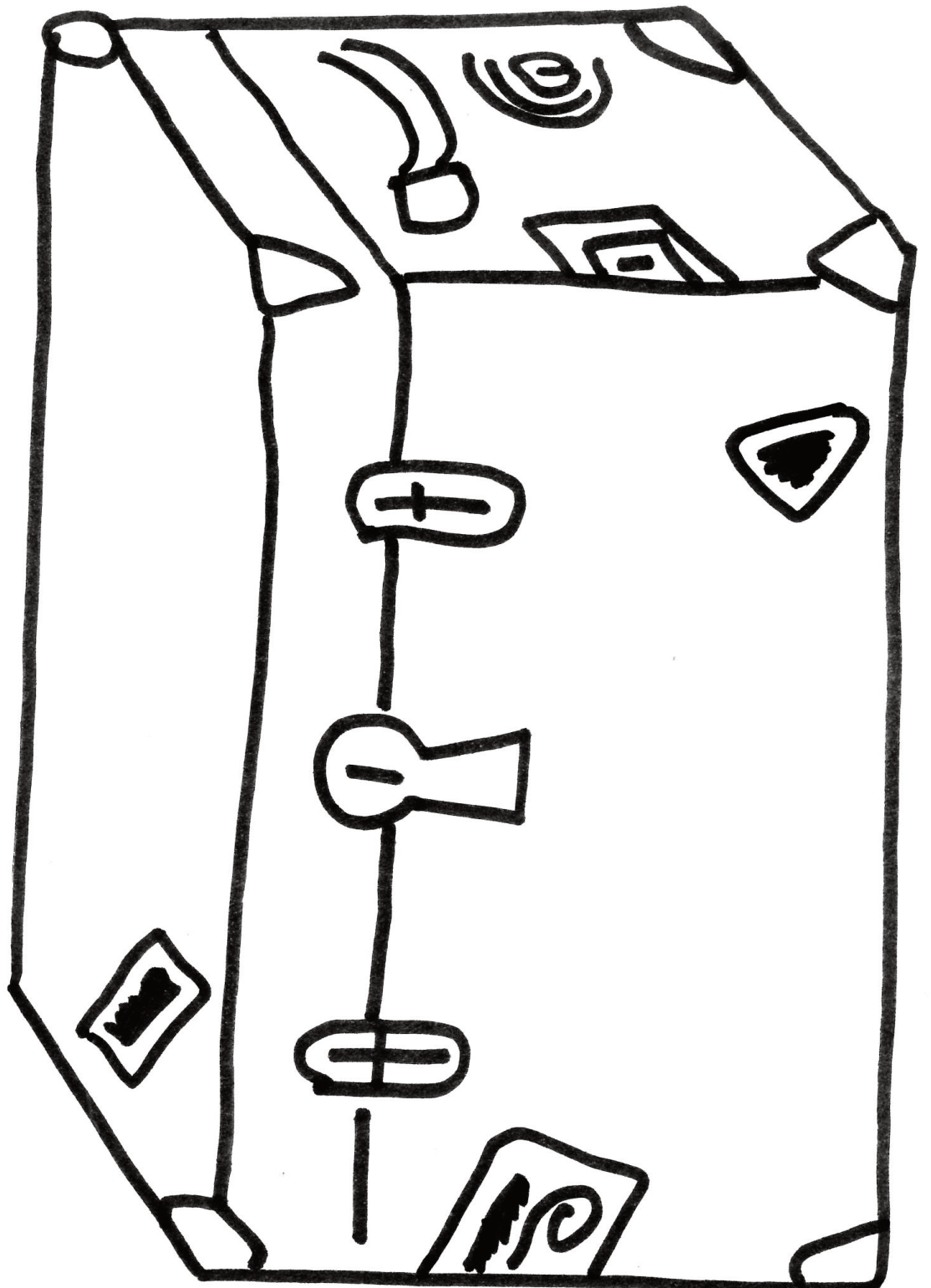
- ALAN ALDA



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED...

In *Everyday Rapture*, Sherie packs up and leaves her small hometown of Topeka, Kansas to move to the big city. What would you bring to a new place?

In a few years you will have to start a new phase of your life, whether this is college, a job or any number of new experiences, there will be many changes. You will have to start forming and negotiating your own moral values just like Sherie did. It is never easy, but if you bring the lessons you've learned, the experiences you've had and things from your life you will be as prepared as you can be. **Fill in the trunk below with what you would bring with you on your journey from childhood to adulthood.** This can be lessons, experiences, quotes and/or pictures.



“And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)”

– Dr. Seuss *Oh, The Places You’ll Go*

FAME Be Careful What You Wish For

Throughout the play, Sherie is actively searching for fame and is then surprised of its effects when she finally finds it. She discovers that her newly discovered fame is affecting her life in many different ways that she had not even thought possible. Although there are different motivators in the individuals' search for fame, the general goal is "to be noticed, to be wanted, to be loved, to walk into a place and have others care about what you're doing." (Kaysar Ridha, 26, of Irvine, Calif., a recent favorite of fans of the popular CBS reality series "Big Brother.")

Although the general goals of fame are generally similar, there are different reasons that people become famous. The three general categories are **conditional fame** (based on skill, talent, or public appeal), **famous for being famous**, and **fleeting fame** ("one hit wonder").

YOU DECIDE! CONDITIONAL FAME, FAMOUS FOR BEING FAMOUS, OR FLEETING FAME?



CAPTAIN CHESLEY "SULLY" SULLENBERGER



PARIS HILTON



LINDSAY LOHAN



DONALD TRUMP



OPRAH WINFREY



BARRACK OBAMA



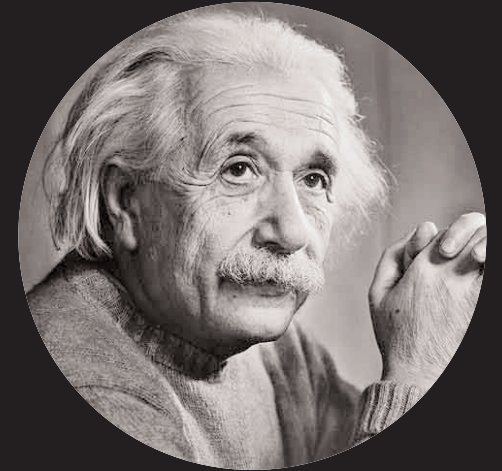
THE JONAS BROTHERS



SEAN COMBS



MICHAEL PHELPS



"If you come to fame not understanding who you are, it will define who you are."
- OPRAH WINFREY

"It is strange to be known so universally and yet to be so lonely."
- ALBERT EINSTEIN

"I have to remind my dad 'journalists, no matter how many cigars they smoke with you are not your friends, so don't talk to them!'"
- CAMERON DIAZ

A lot of celebrities, especially when you're talking about the really big ones, live in what I call the fame bubble. Nobody ever says 'no' to them or challenges them or even teases them."
- KATHY GRIFFIN



Would you rather...

- ...be internationally famous for a day *or* locally famous forever?
- ...have a few genuinely close friends *or* a million fans?
- ...be left alone at a public beach *or* stalked by photographers at a private one?
- ...go out to dinner without anyone knowing who you are *or* be swarmed with photographers and fans?
- ...get free food at restaurants on the condition you exclusively publicize that place *or* have to pay for everything you order but be free to eat where you choose?
- ...be on Perez Hilton's blog for doing something careless *or* be praised by your local town for being a model citizen?
- ...be able to roll out of bed and run out and grab some coffee *or* have to wake up early to have hair and makeup done?

