



2026 Audition Information

What is Immersive Theater?

Immersive theater surrounds the audience, blurring the lines between performer and spectator. Instead of passively observing performances on a stage, audiences have opportunities to interact with performers, environments, and become fully immersed in the story's world.

"Nothing in the world of immersive culture and entertainment experiences happens without the audience. This isn't just a saying; it's an existential fact. Immersive design is centered on the participant."

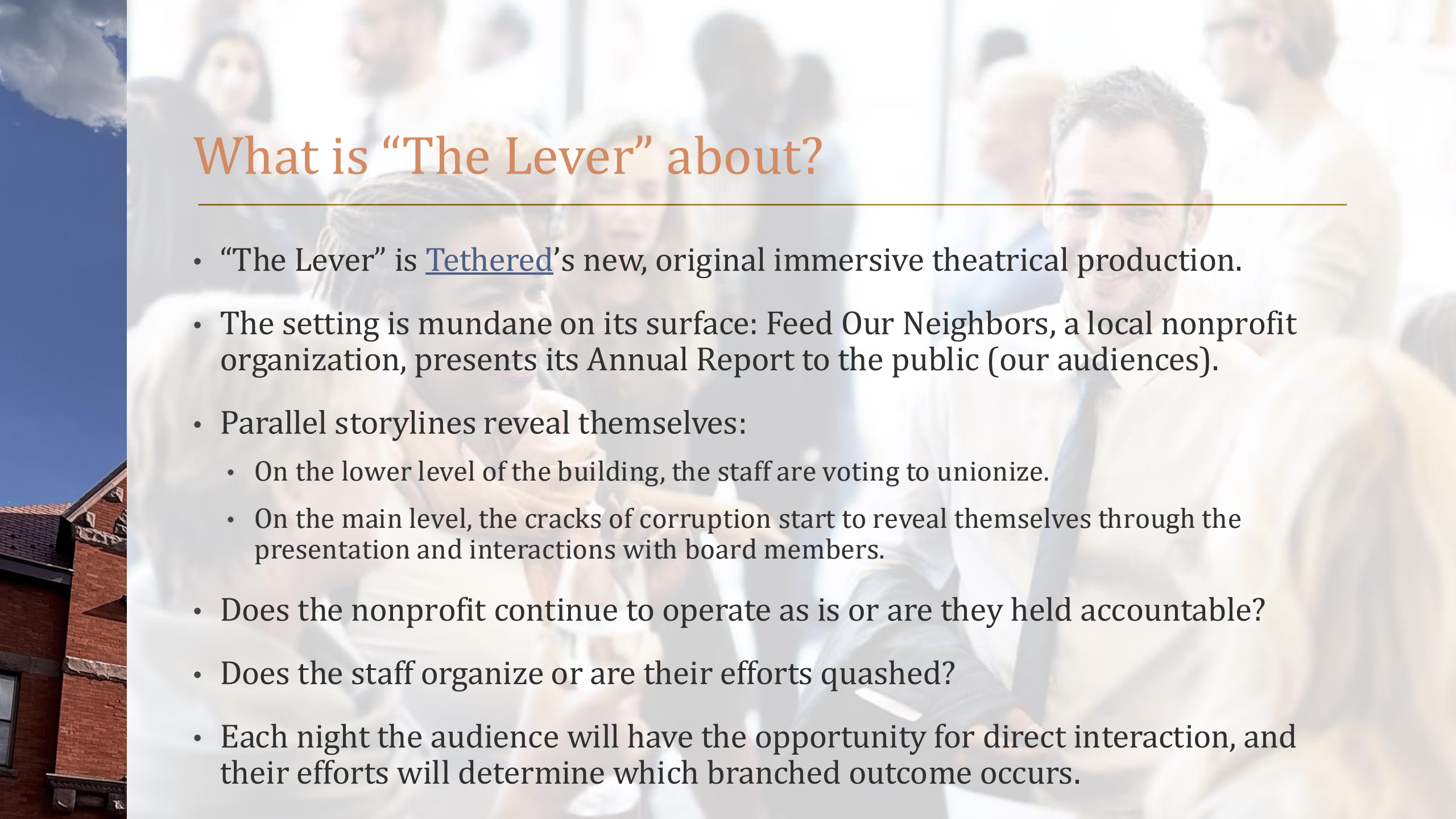
– Immersive Experience Institute

"Living stories don't just entertain; they build trust, empathy and a sense of belonging."

– The Future of Storytelling

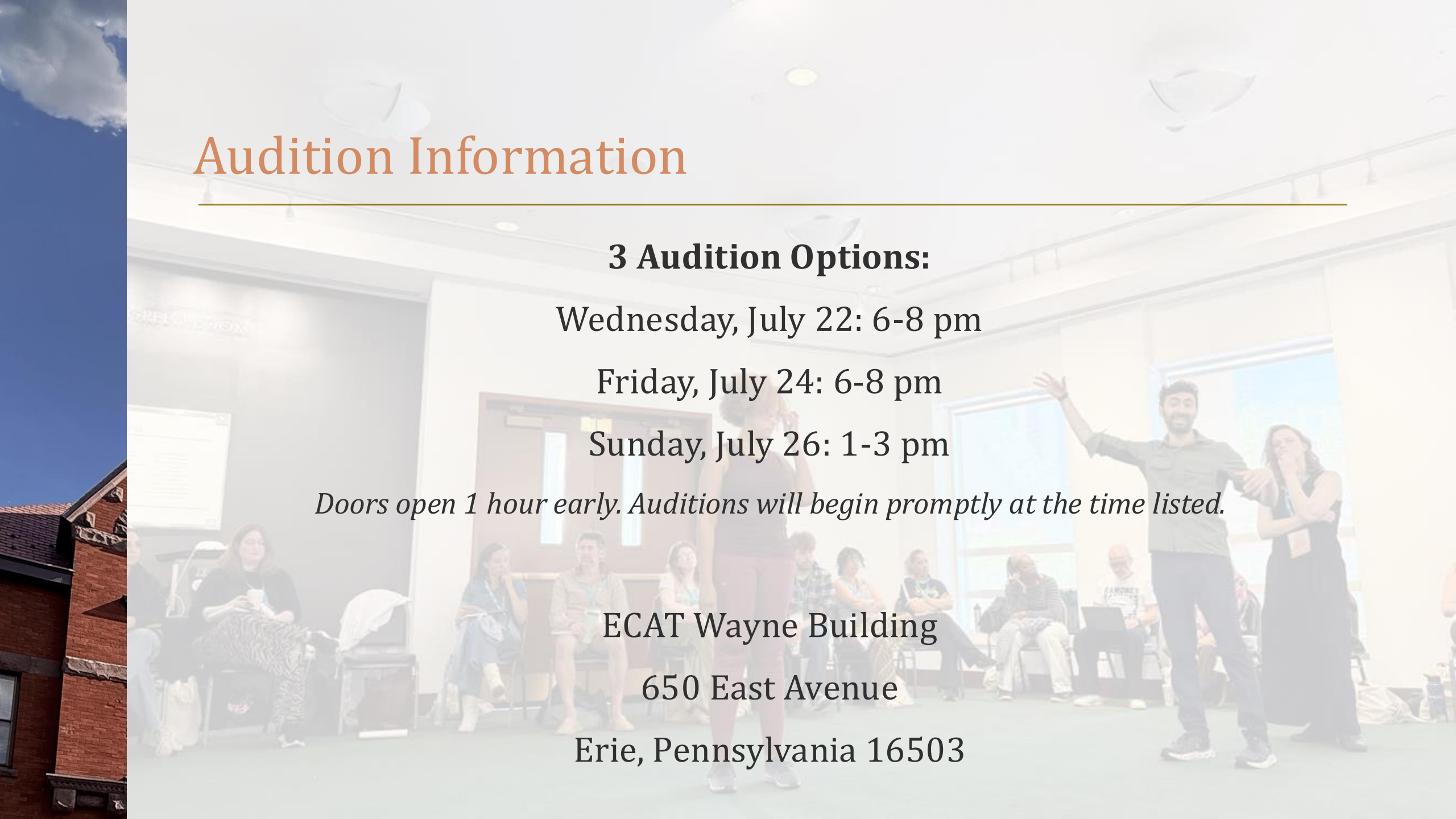
"Immersive theater represents freedom. To explore. To play. Freedom to step outside the bounds of my day-to-day life and wander into something unexpected, thrilling, even dangerous."

– The Verge



What is “The Lever” about?

- “The Lever” is [Tethered](#)’s new, original immersive theatrical production.
- The setting is mundane on its surface: Feed Our Neighbors, a local nonprofit organization, presents its Annual Report to the public (our audiences).
- Parallel storylines reveal themselves:
 - On the lower level of the building, the staff are voting to unionize.
 - On the main level, the cracks of corruption start to reveal themselves through the presentation and interactions with board members.
- Does the nonprofit continue to operate as is or are they held accountable?
- Does the staff organize or are their efforts quashed?
- Each night the audience will have the opportunity for direct interaction, and their efforts will determine which branched outcome occurs.



Audition Information

3 Audition Options:

Wednesday, July 22: 6-8 pm

Friday, July 24: 6-8 pm

Sunday, July 26: 1-3 pm

Doors open 1 hour early. Auditions will begin promptly at the time listed.

ECAT Wayne Building

650 East Avenue

Erie, Pennsylvania 16503



Audition Requirements

Performers must be 18 years of age or older.

We encourage actors of all ethnicities, races, and cultural experiences.

You will be auditioning for “The Lever”, an original Narrative-based Immersive Theatrical Experience produced by [Tethered](#).

Bring a 1-2 minute Contemporary Dramatic Monologue.

Doors open 1 hour early. Auditions will begin promptly at the time listed.

Sign in: Casting Notifications will go out July 26th and 27th via the email address provided.

The background of the slide is a faded photograph of an audition room. In the center, a woman with curly hair in a dark tank top and red leggings stands facing a group of people seated in a semi-circle. To her right, a man in a green shirt and dark pants is gesturing with his arms raised, and a woman in a black dress stands next to him. The room has large windows and modern lighting. On the far left, a portion of a red brick building is visible against a blue sky with clouds.

Audition Format: Workshop Style

We will warm up as a group with an ensemble community-building experience.

- We are looking for you to work as a team with the other actors in the room.
 - Show you can be generous and collaborative.

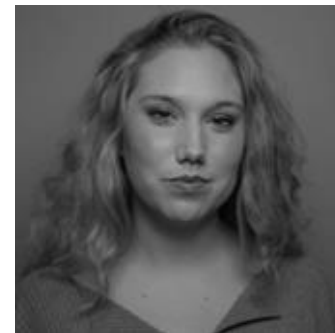
Monologue:

- On your second reading, you will adapt based on interactions with your mock audience.
 - The Lever will center the audience experience, requiring you to think on your feet, so be prepared to spontaneously answer questions from the perspective of the character in your monologue.

Auditions will be Led By

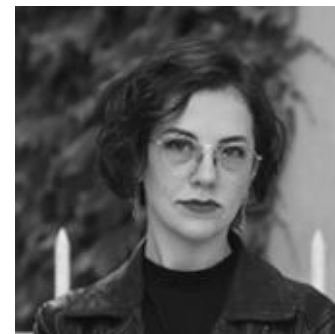
Brooke Echnat

- Resident Director and Producer for Immersive theater company, Vigilance Theater Group. Theater Educator. Immersive Performer whose credits include Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser and The Disney Wish. Based in Pittsburgh.



Anna McJunkin

- Theater Director, Producer, Performer. Audition Coach. Tethered Immersive Producer. Schuster Arts Manager. Based in Erie.



John C. Lyons

- Tethered Immersive Producer and Chief Storyteller. 20+ years Award-winning and Emmy-nominated Filmmaker. Based in Erie.



Our Writing Team

Shiara Pettis

- Poet, Screenwriter

Niecey Nicole

- Spoken Word Artist, Teaching Artist

Marty Nwachukwu

- Community Organizer





Characters: The Board

Executive Director

- 60+ Male. The figurehead of the board. Doesn't quite have a handle on the in's and out's of the organization but loves the lifestyle and being among the people.

President AKA "Coach"

- 50+ Male. Was the star quarterback at a local high school. Youth development work as a mentor. Coach and Athletic Director at a prominent high school.

Retired Police Chief

- 60+ Male. Had a full military and policing career. Now moonlights as private security and is running for Mayor of the city.

Secretary

- Late 30's/Early 40s. Female. Business degree. Retail or upper management of a company. She's the rock of the organization. Keeps to herself and focused on the work.

Treasurer

- Late 30's/Early 40s. Male. Recent addition to the Board. Comes from wealthy parents who are pressuring him to start a brewery franchise.

Club Owner

- 50+ Male. His private club hosts the board organization meetings. Also a member of the board.

Dissenter

- Late 20's/Early 30's. Male. Youngest member. Invested in community politics. An idealist looking to support the labor movement.



Characters: The Staff & Others

Maître d'

- 20's. Female. Responsible for directing and supervising the Staff. Welcomes guests. Manages complaints. Lead internal organizer in union effort.

Loyalist

- 40+. Female. White. Middle-class, suburban. Husband has a well-paid, full-time job. Kids are starting college. Gets along better with the Club Owner and Board members rather than her co-workers.

Informer

- Late 20's/Early 30s. Female. A New American torn between their coworkers and pressures from The Club Owner, who also provides their family housing and the promise of a green card.

Gopher

- Late 20's/Early 30's. Never says "no" and therefor is utilized by members of the board for various errands and other needs well outside of their job description.

Union Organizer

- 30's Male. White. Grew up working class. Father was a union leader. Worked in the service industry before becoming a full-time union rep. Outsider working with the staff on their unionizing efforts.



Pay Rate and Show Dates

\$75 per Performance: \$600 Total

8 Performances:

October 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24

5PM Call time

Show time 6-9 PM

Talkback 9-10 PM (optional)

Payments on October 24 & 25 via PayPal or Check



Rehearsal Schedule

August

5 weeks. Up to 2 days per week. Up to 4 hours per day.

September

Week of 7th: 2 days. Up to 4 hours per day.

Week of 14th: 4 days. Up to 4 hours per day.

Week of 21st: 4 days. Up to 4 hours per day.

Week of 28th (show week): 2 days. Up to 4 hours per day.

Note: You will be asked to provide your general availability at sign-in. Your contract will list specific dates for rehearsals and shows.

Our History

2024

- Tethered partnered with PACA and SafeNet to debut Erie's first immersive theatrical production.
- The 2-night show combined dance and theater featuring 30 live performers spread across 5 floors of the historic Meyer building for a movement and narrative style experience.
- Theme: Codependency.

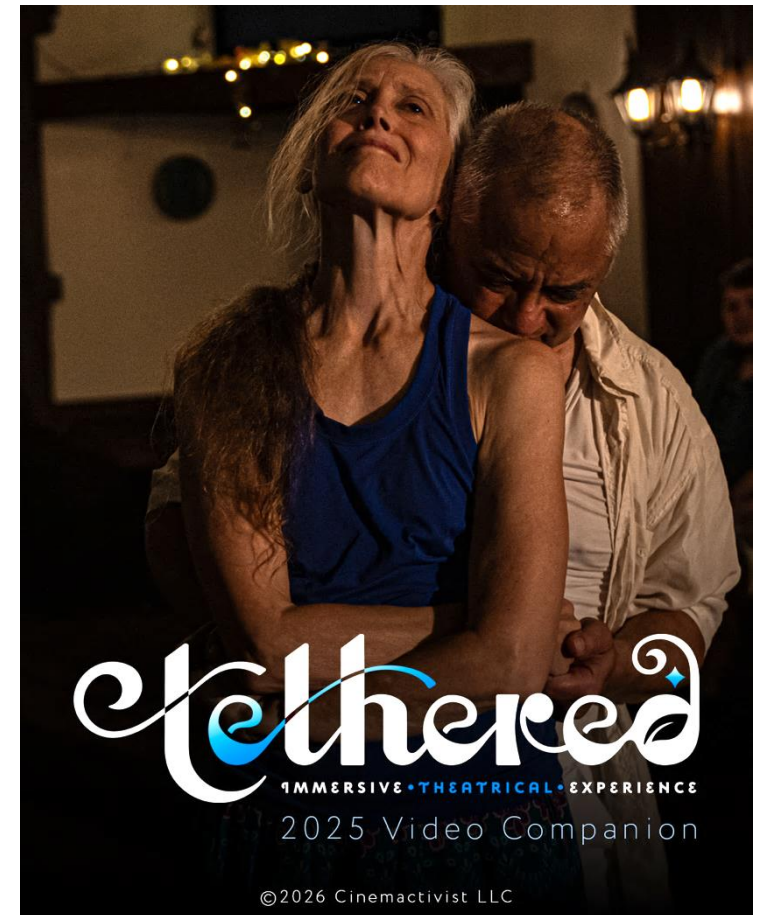




Our History

2025

- Tethered partnered with The Alzheimer's Association to produce a primarily non-verbal, movement-focused experience.
- The show featured 20 theater and dance performers and spanned the entirety of the 36,000 sq ft former Erie Maennerchor Club building.
- Over 300 people attended the 4-night show which combined dance, theatre, film, music, and visual arts.
- Audiences traveled from NYC, Canada, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and everywhere in between.
- Theme: Memory & Consciousness







When faced with the normalization of corruption at levels never before seen in human history, how many times have we asked ourselves, “**What can I do?**”



Our 2026 Goals

- We draw inspiration from the Theatre of the Oppressed to empower audience members in exploring social issues, building community, and finding solutions to oppression.
- Most of us passively consume media, watching stories unfold without influencing their outcomes, but with our 2026 live production, every show gives audiences the opportunity of success through collaboration, creativity, and action. The outcomes of each show will be determined by the audience.
- These experiences have the power to counteract apathy and isolation and the potential to prove we can be heroes of our own lives, not alone, but as part of a community.
- Our goal with this show is to grant audiences new perspectives, adventures, and experiences, bring us closer to ourselves and others, and inspire them to take action in the world outside of the show.

Our 2026 Partners



The Woman's Club of Erie





Questions?

info@tetheredimmersive.com

tethered
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