

foolsFURY theater company continues the Ritual of Dismantling with the creation of an archive.

For more than 23 years, foolsFURY Theater created an artistic home for ground breaking work in ensemble and devised theater, attracting participants from around the world. Now the stories, practice and performance that embody the rich history of foolsFURY will be preserved in an archive at the Museum of Performance and Design.

Over the company's last three months, a core Legacy Project team consisting of Archivist Emily Weak, Board Member Mercilee Jenkins and Artistic Director Debórah Eliezer have worked on gathering more than 400 GB of existing digital records including video recordings of fully produced shows, recordings from seven FURY Factory festivals, and presentation videos and documentation from two BUILD digital conferences.

LEE QUOTE: But we did not stop there. We wanted the stories of those who engaged in these projects to be recorded and preserved in order to reveal the ways this work had been accomplished and how it might be carried forward.

So, with very limited time, they embarked on an ambitious oral history project, which collected the stories of more than 25 artists and generated an interview protocol which can now be shared with the field. Donors have pledged \$7900 to support these endeavors.

EMILY QUOTE: Legacy is the right name for this project. The archive chronicles deeply meaningful work; foolsFURY created a place for artists to train and collaborate in ways that were not widely available.

Oral history interviews are currently being conducted with a broad sampling of community members who participated with foolsFURY in capacities such as trainings, convenings, workshops, productions, FURY Factories Festivals and the day to day running of the organization. Finally, The Legacy project invites all those with foolsFURY stories and comments and farewells to visit the [foolsFURY Facebook page](#).

DEBORAH QUOTE: I'm very proud of what our team was able to achieve to commemorate foolsFURY. Although the work of small theater ensembles often creates the most innovative work in the field, it's rarely archived. It's more important than ever to share our large body of work including FURY Factory Festivals, world premiere plays and master workshops which promoted the model of ensemble in the SF Bay Area and beyond BUILD digital convenings and BUILD digital convenings which offered new ways to create community around racial equity and economic justice.

The [Museum of Performance and Design](#) was founded in the 40s by SF Ballet dancer and designer Russell Hartley. It mounts both online and onsite exhibits and has both digital and physical collections. The robust archive is open by appointment. It houses archives for many organizations, including the San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Opera, Stern Grove Festival,

Pickle Family Circus, Noh Oratorio Society, Lamplighters Music Theatre, One Act Theater, and the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival. It also houses its own legacy oral history project, with interviews that aim “to prevent the loss of historic continuity by preserving the artistic and personal records of San Francisco Bay Area dance community elders and other members who are confronting life-threatening illness, with a special interest in those challenging ARC or AIDS”

The Legacy Project archive will arrive at its new home in early March 2022 and will be open to the public.

Special thanks to: Our interviewing team which includes Angela Santillo, Emily Dedakis, Jillian Jetton, Julius Rea, and Scott Horstein, all our oral history interviewees, all our donors, and the Museum of Performance + Design.