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## "Wes Out-Loud" Theater Performance Takes Audience on Site-Specific Auditory Journey

by Olivia Droke • April 29, 2016



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During the "Wes Out-Loud" performance, audience members wore wireless headsets to listen to recorded stories of place created for various sites on campus.

The Theater Department presented "Wes Out-Loud: Stories of Place" April 28 on campus.

"Wes Out-Loud: Stories of Place" is a site-specific auditory journey conceived and created for the Wesleyan campus through a collaboration between theater students and Assistant Professor of Theater Marcela Oteiza. "Wes Out-Loud" invited the audience to experience Wesleyan as a scenographic space by inserting new narratives into everyday sites.

The juxtaposition of place and stories presented the richness and diversity of the students on campus and promoted inclusiveness.

Audience members wore wireless headsets to listen to the **recorded stories** of place created for each site. The performance, led by Wesleyan students, covered a one-and-a-half mile loop through campus.

The journey includes stories of current students who wrote a piece specific to Wesleyan and the space that Wesleyan occupies.

"Wesleyan is an intensely personal space to me. It is the place where I have experienced the most growth and had the most memorable experiences of my life thus far. Given its significance, the memories of Wesleyan are positive, negative, and everywhere in between," said collaborator Jess Cummings '17. "I wanted to focus on disparities between positive and negative, especially those which I often hide. I also wanted to emphasize the way that these memories take on a spatiality and transform the spaces which the original events occurred in. I hope that listening to my story, as well as everyone else's, will allow members of our Wesleyan community and beyond to question their relationships to the spaces they inhabit everyday and recognize the lasting effects that memory and space leave on their lives."

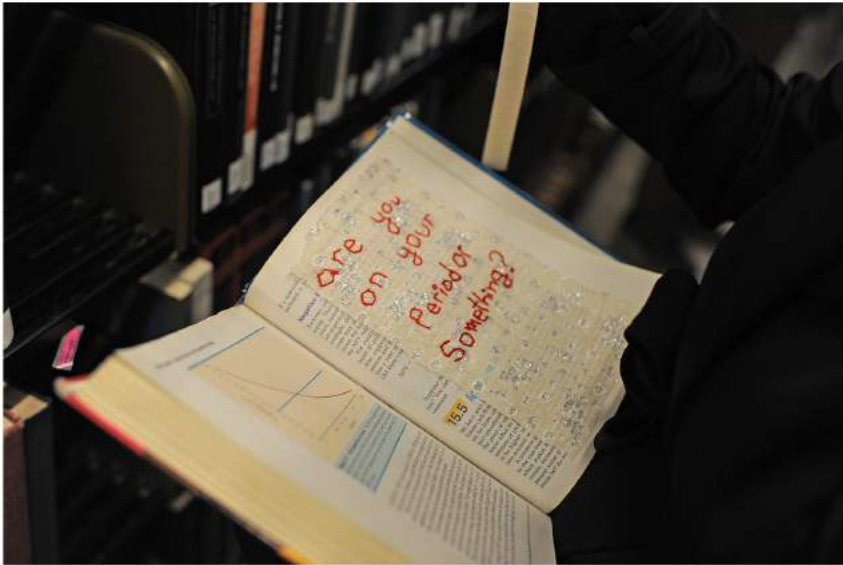
"Wes Out-Loud" was recorded with a binaural, 3D-surround-sound system — a method that emulates the workings of human auditory perception, explained Marcela Oteiza. "Utilizing an actual scale model of left and right ears, the recording system works with the premise that it is the architecture of our anatomy that dictates how we understand the sounds we hear," she said.

Additional performances will take place on April 29, April 30 and May 1.

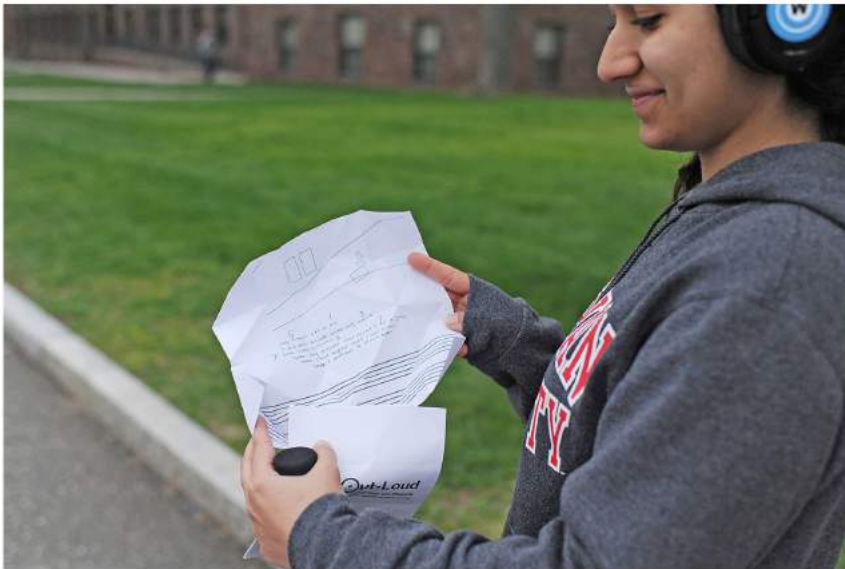
(Photos below by Rebecca Goldfarb Terry '19)











**ROW ONE** (from left)  
 Yafan Du '16, Stage Manager  
 Jess Cummings '15, Collaborator  
 AJ Jarrell '17  
 Assistant Director and Collaborator

**ROW TWO** (from left)  
 Anthony Owen '15, Sound  
 Cecilia Camille-Bouché '14, Collaborator  
 Kayraa Sweeney '17, Collaborator

**ROW THREE** (from left)  
 Nick Dyer '18, Collaborator  
 Maya Heibman '17, Collaborator  
 Sara Duffenbach '19, Collaborator

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Snapshots



Students Toss Objects from Exley's Roof during Big Drop



Students Perform West African Drumming, Dance at End-of-Year Concert



Refugees' Art Featured at Student-Run "Art in Crisis" Exhibit



Wes Sailing Team Hosts First Inter-Collegiate Regatta