

Passageways

by Amy Oestreicher



amyoes.com/passageways

Passageways

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youtube.com/channel/UCaK2ees8jAPx4RtBcVpQN5g



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Passageways is part of LoveMyDetour: An LLC committed to transforming communities by inspiring people to open their minds and reframe their view of “detours” into a new direction for life through education, expression, and engagement. Sharing our stories through creativity, we gain adaptability and create a positive, empowered attitude toward obstacles, physical or mental struggles, transitions, and trauma. For more information, contact LoveMyDetour@gmail.com

Passageways

Synopsis

“Passageways is a groundbreaking synthesis of over 200 artworks and original musical arrangements to create the internal and external landscape of an extraordinarily theatrical coming of age story.”

Passageways is an original multimedia fantastical one-woman musical based on a “fistula” – an abnormal communication between organs that evolves from a surgery or sudden interference. Through art, music, humor, and nature, a woman with a wild passion for life and self-discovery forms a bold, new identity in spite of relentless adversity, discovering that “home” cannot be re-found, but must be re-imagined as she finds liberation through the creative telling of stories.

The 80-minute musical explores the physical and emotional repairs that accompany the path to recovery from a decade of the playwright’s autobiographical trauma, including sexual abuse by a trusted mentor, rapidly succeeded by a gastrectomy, coma, organ failure, six years unable to eat or drink a drop of fluid, 28 reconstructive surgeries and the journey of PTSD that follows. This multidisciplinary narrative explores trauma through the archetypal hero’s journey, incorporating live-painting, movement, and original music while illustrated by mixed-media art, and visual media.



“These songs, texts and paintings were mostly created when I first lost my digestive system. I wrote nearly 40 songs in two months to process the events as they were unfolding, including the resurfacing memories of abuse by a trusted mentor. I journaled to rediscover the connection I had always found in nature. And I made art to paint the faces back onto trees - the friends who had always guided me. Although initially frightening, the journey ultimately proved empowering. We make our own meaning, myth and symbols to become the heroes of our own story.”

– Amy Oestreicher

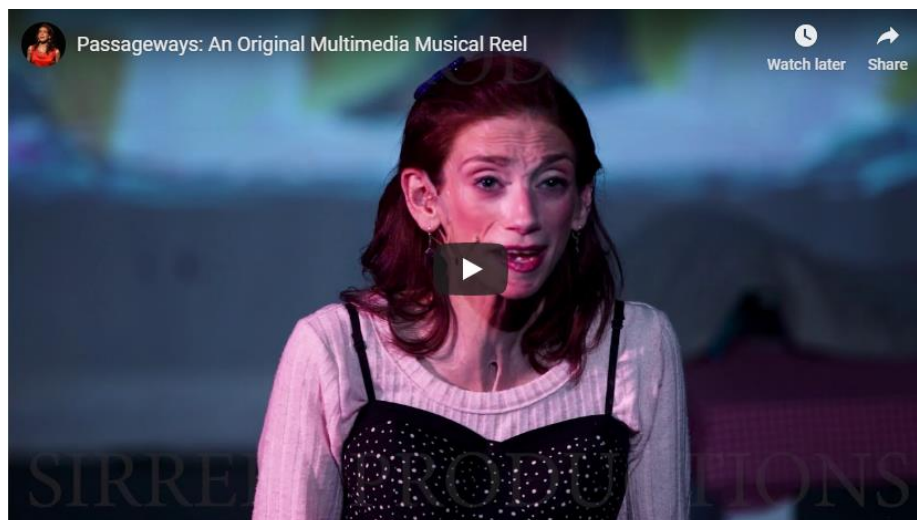
Link to Program: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FqCgqfqu9sO59xEumISYYooyR4Of9b-A>

Link to Production Photo: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wr1db6NcFnG00CpB-BcvCleDbGqzYZx9>

Passageways

Promotional Media

Music, humor and art, interwoven with autobiographical narrative, as the creativity of the artist becomes an unexpected passageway through profound crisis. On passageways, there's no way in, no way out, only through. So why not laugh, dance and paint our way towards the light?



Video Promo: <https://youtu.be/vvw-At6Jzr8>

Full Script Available Upon Request

Passageways

Musical Numbers

MUSICAL NUMBERS

MY DREAM (Amy wakes up to the world.)

BREATHE IT IN (Amy revels in nature.)

MY DREAM - PART 2 (Amy tries to find a mentor, teacher, and guide.)

RUNNING, RUNNING (The teacher takes advantage of his position and power.)

KEEP MOVING (In the face of the abuse, Amy shuts down.)

I SEE YOU (No matter where she is, his face is there with her.)

CIRCLES (Her life and mind are spinning in circles.)

HOW DARE YOU (She has gotten weaker on the outside, but inside she is raging.)

THE SKY IS BLUE (Amy finally tells her mother.)

COMA INTERLUDE (Amy is rushed to the hospital in pain. Her stomach explodes.)

DEAR LITTLE ONE (She is finally safe from the predator, but in a new world of physical hell.)

BLIP IN TIME (Amy cannot eat or drink and is at her wits' end.)

GETTING ON THE TABLE (They are going to rebuild her stomach and save her.)

OCTOBER (The surgery doesn't work and she still can't eat.)

FALLING SNOW (Years pass. Amy is losing hope after years of unsuccessful surgeries.)

PICTURE FRAME (Amy creates a new place in the world for herself.)

GREEN GREEN GRASS/BREATHE IT IN (With a fierce determination, she forges a path forward.)

A teenager connects to the world through a sincere love of trees, which "nobody" seems to understand. Finally, a Manhattan voice teacher "gets" her depth, becoming a godlike figure - a "Lion." Suddenly, the Lion turns into a "Snake" through allegory, when Amy, the "songbird" is sexually abused, forced into numbness and secrecy. Shortly after telling her mother, she is rushed to the emergency room with terrible pain, & months later, she awakes from a coma learning that her stomach has ruptured & she may not be able to eat or drink again. Through the ability to create, she blazes a trail to follow the trees, who have always guided her back home.

Passageways

Biography



Amy Oestreicher is a PTSD Specialist, Audie award-nominated playwright, performer, and multidisciplinary creator. Amy overcame a decade of trauma to become a sought-after trauma-informed teaching artist, author, writer for The Huffington Post, international keynote speaker, RAINN representative, and health advocate. She has given three ***TEDx Talks*** on transforming trauma through creativity, and holds the record for the only woman to give TEDx Talks for three consecutive years, reaching nearly 15K views. Her story has appeared on NBC's Today, CBS, Cosmopolitan, Seventeen Magazine, The Washington Post, Good Housekeeping, and MSNBC, among others and she's contributed to over 80 print and online publications. A singer, librettist, and visual mixed media artist, she dedicates her work to celebrating everyday miracles, untold stories, and the detours in life that can spark connection and transform communities. Amy has toured her

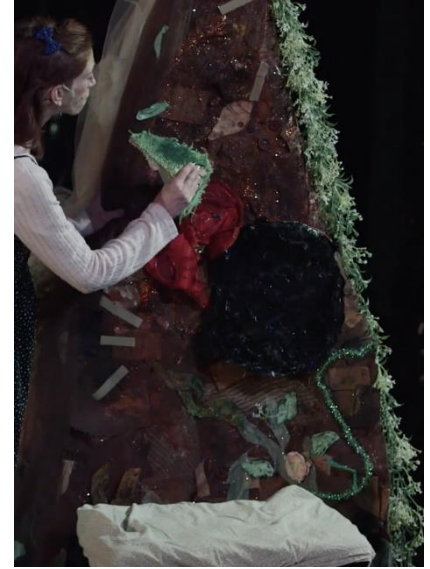
autobiographical musical, ***Gutless & Grateful***, to over 200 venues from 54 Below to Barrington Stage Company since its 2012 NYC debut, as well as a mental health program for colleges, conferences and organizations. She is currently developing her full-length play, *Flicker and a Firestarter*, on the dichotomies that emerge after trauma, and *More Than Ever Now*, a play based on her grandmother's story of survival. She most recently premiered her one-woman multimedia musical, ***Passageways***, at HERE Arts Center, for which she created music, book, lyrics, and artwork.

As the 2014 Eastern Regional Recipient of Convatec's ***Great Comebacks Award*** and WEGO Health "Health Activist Hero", and WeGO Health Expert, medical community, speaking for National WOCN conferences and the *American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress*, and writing for the official print publication of the UOAA. She has devised programming for the Transformative Language Arts Network National Conference, the Eating Recovery Foundation, the 40th Anniversary New England Educational Opportunity Association *Milestones* Conference, three Annual National Mental Health America Conference, and others. She has been the featured keynote speaker for national conferences including the Pacific Rim Conference of Diversity and Disability, the International School of Social Work Conference, & Women of Resilience.

Passageways

Biography

As a playwright, Amy has received awards and accolades for engaging her audiences in dynamic conversation on trauma's effects on society, including Women Around Town's "Women to Celebrate" 2014, BroadwayWorld "Best Theatre Debut," Bistro Awards "New York Top Pick, and the "Singular Award" at the Sarasolo Theatre Festival, presented annually for a "performance that is exceptionally uncommon, groundbreaking, original and inventive." Amy has performed excerpts of her solo oral history Play, *Divers*, as part of Brooklyn's immigrants and Exile, Beechwood Art's Giving Voice, Dixon Place, Seekonk Storytelling Television Special, and Museum of Jewish Heritage Festival of Untold Women. She is a cabaret and theatre reviewer for BroadwayWorld, Her theatre education essays and monologues have been published in Creative Pedagogy journals, as part of a theatre curriculum for high school students in the Philippines. Her play, "We Re-Member" honoring the immigration stories of her grandparents, has been performed in twelve states, and her full-length Play, *Factory Treasure*, has been performed at the Philadelphia Arts Center, Identity Theatre, LIU, The Depot, and Actors Theatre of Newburyport. Her short plays have been published by the Eddy Theatre Company and finalists in Manhattan Repertory Theatre's Short Play Festival, as well as NYC Playwright's Women in the Age of Trump.



Amy's collaboration with Beechwood Arts on the immersion salon, "Resilience and the Power of the Human Spirit", has traveled around the world to health and arts facilities as a public installation, incorporating her monologues, art, writing and recipes to express the life-altering detours and ultimately the invaluable gifts of her resilient journey. Amy is also an active artist and teacher in the Jewish community, being honored by United Way in 2005 for her music programs at Hollander House, completing artist residencies at Art Kibbutz, and delivering "Hope, Resilience & Biblical Women" keynotes for synagogues and religious schools. She is a teaching artist with Brooklyn's Community World Project, and trained ACTSmart, a Playback Theatre troupe in Amherst, MA. She is also a passionate arts education advocate, a successful mixed media visual artist, a continuing education studio arts teacher, and her artwork has been shown in esteemed galleries in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Chicago, San Diego and New York, as well as published in national publications including *Conquer*, *Topology* and *Cargo Literary*. She has recently published her memoir, **My Beautiful Detour: An Unthinkable Journey from Gutless to Grateful.**

See more at www.amyoes.com.

Passageways

Biography



Bob Goldstone (music direction & arrangements) His career has spanned the Music Theater, Classical, and Pop worlds. On Broadway, he was pianist for *Evita* and assistant musical director for *Charlie and Algernon*. Off-Broadway, he was musical director and arranger for *Asylum*, *Tallulah Hallelujah*, *Kleynkunst!*, *Bubbe Meises* (also on PBS-TV), *Das Lusitania Songspiel*, *Guilt Without S*x*, *The Coolest Cat in Town*, and pianist for the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and *The Knife*. Bob has worked with many top cabaret and nightclub performers including Karen Akers, Tovah Feldshuh, Eileen Fulton, Eddie Fisher, Liliane Montevecchi, Bruce Adler, Dick Shawn, Estelle Parsons, and lyricists Sheldon Harnick and Carolyn Leigh. Bob arranged, orchestrated, and conducted the score for the feature film "High Stakes," and has orchestrated many shows including *Joe Raposo's The Little Rascals*, *Asylum*, *Bob Merrill's Hannah 1939*, *Michel Legrand's A Christmas Carol*, *The Housewives' Cantata*, *Sheldon Harnick's Dragons*, and *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Bob graduated cum laude from Yale, where, as an undergraduate, he worked on many shows at the Yale Drama School including Stephen Sondheim's *Frogs* at the Yale Swimming Pool, and was accompanist for the New Haven Opera. Bob has played orchestral piano with both the 92nd St. Y and Centre Symphonies, was the featured piano soloist in a concert celebrating the work of Vladimir Heifetz, and played in chamber music recitals at the Mannes School of Music. He recently arranged and orchestrated a symphonic-pops concert for violinist/singer/pianist/acrobat Janice Martin.



Shellen Lubin (director) works professionally as a Director, Playwright, Songwriter, and Actor/Singer. Her plays have been produced and workshopped at Manhattan Class Company, the Public Theatre, Pacific Resident Theatre, Hubbard Hall, West Coast Ensemble, American Jewish Theatre, and more. Her songs have been featured on radio and cable TV; in Milos Forman's first American film, "Taking Off;" in numerous cabaret acts including her own; and in a one-hour special on WBAI-FM, Shellen Lubin - Songwriter/Singer. As a director/dramaturg assisting in the development of new plays, she has directed across the country--currently working on projects with Stuart Warmflash, Lanie Robertson, Susan Cinoman, and Amy Oestreicher--most recently at the Pawling Theatre Exchange and in the Playwright Directors Workshop of the Actors Studio--and is the resident director for the Bistro Awards for Sherry Eaker, Producer. She also teaches and coaches actors, singers, and writers both privately and as a guest artist. As the Artistic Director of Untold Stories of Jewish Women, she helmed a three-day theatre festival at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in March 2018. As an advocate for women+ in theatre, she is the incoming Co-President of the League of Professional Theatre Women, the 1st Vice President and Past President of the Women in the Arts & Media Coalition, and chair of the Women Playwrights Initiative for the National Theatre Conference. Her reflections on artistry and life have been featured in five cover pieces for Back Stage Publications (archived on her website) and are read weekly in her Monday Morning Quotes think-pieces (www.mondaymorningquotes.com). Proud member of DG, SDC, AEA, and more. www.shellenlubin.com @SHLubin

Shannon Epstein (video production) is the current technical director & head designer of many off Broadway shows including the MAC award winning show of the year *Spamilton*. Shannon has been the technical director of the legendary Triad Theatre for the past 7 years & has worked and designed many shows including *My Son The Waiter* a Jewish tragedy, *Celebrity Autobiography* & *Disaster* the musical.

Passageways

Reviews

“*Passageways* is more interior, a fantastical journey at times inside Amy’s mind as her life takes a radical spin into devastating emotional and physical pain.”

– Stagebuddy

Read Full Article at: <https://stagebuddy.com/theater/theater-review/review-passageways-songs-connection-abnormal-sublime>

“It’s the whimsy that she brings to her trauma, and which sustained her through it that distinguishes Oestreicher’s song cycle. It makes her one-woman, 90-minute show, “Passageways,” at Here Arts Center both harrowing, and uplifting.”

– Isa Goldberg, Theaterlife.com

Read Full Article at: <http://theaterlife.com/passageways/>

“This unique theatrical experience is a compelling and uplifting journey through the physical and emotional repairs on the path to recovery, as the creativity of the artist is itself the passageway through profound crisis.”

– BroadwayWorld

Access Full Article/Production Photos at: <https://www.broadwayworld.com/off-off-broadway/article/Photo-Flash-First-Look-at-PASSAGEWAYS-at-HERE-20190807>

Access Amy’s Mixed Media Artwork here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/144888510@N07/>

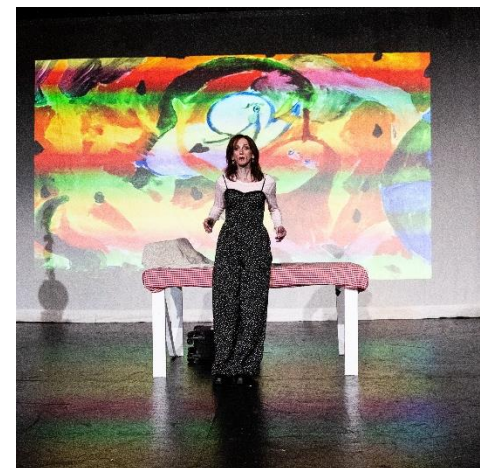
Sample Passageway Songs (written, composed, & performed by Amy)

BLIP IN TIME: <https://amyoes.bandcamp.com/track/blip-in-time>

PICTURE FRAME: <https://amyoes.bandcamp.com/track/picture-frame>

Passageways

Pictures



Passageways

Workshop



The musical can be followed by a **talkback** or a creativity/storytelling **workshop**.

Workshop topics can include:

- Reclaiming our Voice through Reframing our Narratives
- Stories, Gratitude, Presence, Hope – The Path To Resilience
- Creativity: The Gift of Seeing Things Differently
- Navigating Detours by Using Uncertainty as a Springboard
- Stories that Connect – Archetypes unifying our experiences
- Performance as a connective tool for communities

Talkbacks Topics can include:

- Transforming trauma into art vs. Creative Therapies
- Cultivating hope through theatrical experiences
- Flipping the script: Accessibility and Inclusion
- Sexual Assault Awareness: Understanding the Freeze response through Art

A Q & A can be led by a guest artist. Past guests include:

- Anita Hollander: (theatre performer and disability advocate)
- Marianne Gunther (president of New York Art Therapy Art Association) on visual art to create the internal and external landscape of PTSD

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Workshop

Passageways for Educational Programming can also be taken to schools as a three-component program.

“Having been affected by both visible and invisible illness, I’m driven by the innate capacity of the arts to start an open dialogue on how we each can work to fight stigma through building a culture of empathy and empowerment and have toured over 200 colleges nationwide since 2012 with a program combining my first musical, Gutless & Grateful, mental health advocacy and sexual assault prevention.

Now, Passageways combines multiple forms of creative to help students understand the internal and external landscape of trauma, and how to develop healthy coping mechanisms through creativity.”

Part 1:

A ***mental health-themed keynote*** on resiliency, providing local and national resources in order to help students cope with major change.

Part 2:

One-Woman Musical Theatre: Passageways - a multimedia performance with a powerful message that it's possible for students to navigate "detours" and overcome obstacles through developing inner resources. The theatre performance can also be accompanied by a short reading from my book, *My Beautiful Detour*, sharing my journey of mental health recovery while starting college at age 25, and after I had fully recovered from my coma.

Part 3:

A Q&A: Students will be provided with a peer-to-peer leadership takeaway guide, incorporating creative exercises to celebrate campus diversity and develop healthy habits.

Additional:

Interactive Workshop: for groups of six or more, ideal for hospitals, foundations, benefits, fundraisers, conferences, corporate meetings, team-building retreats, expressive learning and growth opportunities, support groups, schools, universities, learning facilities, theatres, festivals.

Thank you!

For more information contact

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