

STUCK: TOGETHER, ALONE

a theatrical exploration by Ruthie Scarpino

As a performer with a deeply rooted background in visual art and circus I sought to bridge the gap existing between the different mediums. I wrote STUCK an ensemble piece exploring the human experience of being physically, psychologically, and emotionally marooned. Utilizing physical theatre, circus, and mask on one stage, STUCK united practices that in my professional career were always separate.

The Covid-19 quarantine presented particular difficulties for artists who work in ensemble. Instead of having access to a plethora of performers I was alone, without outside influence and isolated for the first time in my creative career. I found myself struggling to create solo work, and I sought ways to create the illusion of ensemble while working alone. The piece that came from this series of challenges has helped build one singular scene from STUCK: Together, Alone.

Together Alone, is a solo exploration into the creation of ensemble. The piece uses masks, movement, and film in real time to build a virtual company that in reality is only one artist. The four minutes of work via this digital medium, took nearly ninety hours of mask creation, fifty hours of filming, and two stage managers to support with cues, and the nitty gritty details of staging.

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