



APPENDIX
Portal Exercise
Festival of Faith – Temple Emanuel

“Ushertator” Instructions

The Portal Exercise asked audience members attending the Festival of Faith performances at Temple Emanuel to make “forced choices” related to the themes of the show as they moved from one performance space to another. Instructed to consider the choices labeled over the portals, audience members were invited to discuss with fellow participants their choice before stepping through a portal. Ushertators were ushers/facilitators who escorted audience members to their seats while gently encouraging reflection and dialogue along the way.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USHERTATORS

The show consists of 4 short plays. There are two 5 to 7 minute transitions during the performance in which audience members will travel to another part of the temple. Here is the line up . . .

PLAY 1 in Chapel (Salvadorian Moon/African Sky)

Transition A - (5 to 7 minutes)

PLAY 2 in Sanctuary (The Shabbos Kept Them)

PLAY 3 in Sanctuary (Who is a Jew?)

Transition B - (5 to 7 minutes)

PLAY 4 in Chapel (The Holographic Universe or A Day in the Life of Heeb and Sahib)

Pre-show

- a) Select a "reserved seat" in the chapel and in the sanctuary.
- b) Review Dialogue Page located in program. The purpose of this page is to get audience members to reflect on "forced choices" to stimulate dialogue about the themes in the plays and the connections between themes and personal reflections.
- c) Meet/greet audience members, pass out programs, and direct guests to the chapel for the first show.

- d) Mingle with audience members and set tone for an interactive show.
- e) Check to make sure that everyone has a nametag—that's how we know they reserved a seat. If they don't have a nametag, please refer them back to the registration table.
- f) Set up signs on doorways (“portals”) after audience is settled in Chapel.

Play 1 and Transition A

- a) During first show, Ushertators should be seated among audience members.
- b) After play ends, ushertators encourage the audience to follow the performers to three sets of "doorways" (located between the chapel and the sanctuary). At that time, the audience will be instructed to look at the "signs" above the doorways, then choose a doorway that they would like to walk through. Guests will reflect on and discuss "choices" with each other before walking through the doorways. Ushertators are crucial to the dialogue process. Ushertators mingle through audience and encourage reflection and facilitate dialogue.
- c) After tech is set, usher guests through doorways—one ushertator will be posted by each set of doorways. Each set of doorways consists of two doorways that are connected side-by-side (so guests must choose a path). We will need 3 volunteers for the 3 sets of doorways.

DOORWAY SIGNS (order may change):

- adventurous spirit / contented soul;
- U.S. citizen / citizen of the world;
- I believe in God / I don't believe in God.

Please note that there may be a couple of performers who will be planted as "ushertators"—just treat them like part of the "ushertator team." It should be fun to watch the audience's reaction when they transform into performers!

- d) Change "signs" after the audience is settled in the sanctuary.

Play 2 and 3 and Transition B

- a) Ushertators sit among the audience for the 2nd and 3rd plays.
- b) After the 3rd Play, ushertators guide guests back to the doorways to reflect on another set of choices. (The dialogue continues for 5 to 7 minutes while the tech folks move their equipment to the chapel).

DOORWAY SIGNS (order may change):

- religious / secular
- at home / just visiting

- safe / unsafe
- sacred (Siegfried) / profane (Roy)

c) When we receive the "signal" from the tech folks, usher guests through doorways and into the chapel for the 4th Play. Again, ushers will be posted by each set of doorways.

d) Sit among the audience and enjoy the final play of the day.

NOTE: A page in the program guide invited audience members to reflect on and discuss a wide range of choices, some of which did not actually appear over doorways. Other choices on this page were:

- Earth / Paradise
- bagel & lox / ham & cheese
- observant / non-observant
- virgin / whore
- spiritual wealth / material wealth
- I pray / I don't pray