



GAME NARRATIVE
SUMMIT

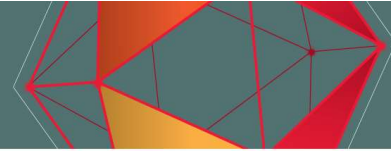
Productive Dissension: How a Diverse Writers' Room created Life is Strange: Before the Storm

Zak Garriss
Narrative Director, Deck Nine Games

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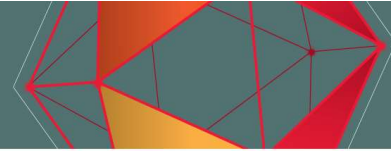




INTRODUCTION

- ZAK GARRISS
- WRITER, GAME DESIGNER, NARRATIVE CONSULTANT
- LEAD WRITER ON LIFE IS STRANGE: BEFORE THE STORM
- CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS
- KINGDOMS OF AMALUR: RECKONING
- ACADEMIC ARTICLES ON THUCYDIDES THAT NO ONE HAS OR WILL EVER READ





THE WRITERS' ROOM

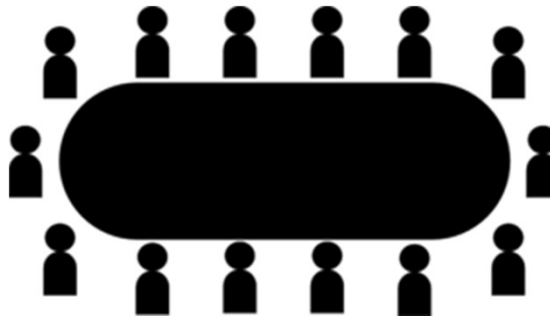
Whiteboard

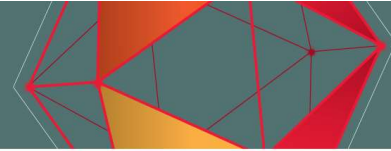


Lead Writer



The Writing Team



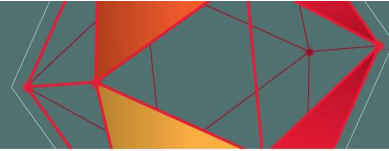


WHAT GETS PRODUCED IN THE ROOM

THE BREAK

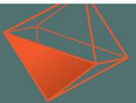
- CHAR A DOES THIS
 - CHAR B FEELS THAT
 - THIS GAMEPLAY BEAT
 - THAT NARRATIVE BEAT
 - PITY
 - FEAR
 - BOSS BATTLE!
 - CATHARSIS
- CHLOE PRICE
 - THE THEME OF GRIEF
 - ARCADIA BAY
 - RACE AND GENDER
 - GAMEPLAY MECHANICS

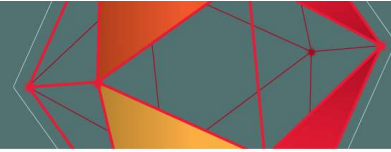




STRENGTHS

- A PLURALITY OF VOICES LEVERAGES DIVERSITY...
- ...AND PROTECTS THE SCRIPT FROM ANY ONE PERSON'S BLIND SPOTS.
- A ROOM CAN PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY CONTENT QUICKLY TO KEEP UP WITH YOUR PRODUCTION TEAMS.
- THE RIGHT ROOM CAN VOLTRON FOUR (OR MORE) GOOD WRITERS INTO ONE SUPER WRITER.





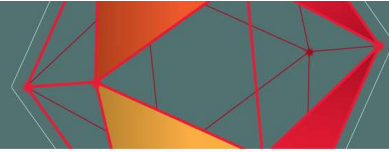
TO BUILD A GREAT ROOM, YOU NEED...

- AN ETIQUETTE OF EXCHANGE
- A CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY
- A MECHANISM FOR MAKING DECISIONS





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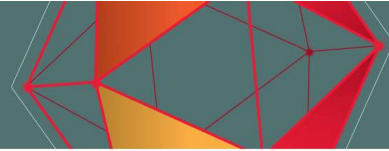
AN ETIQUETTE OF EXCHANGE

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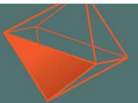
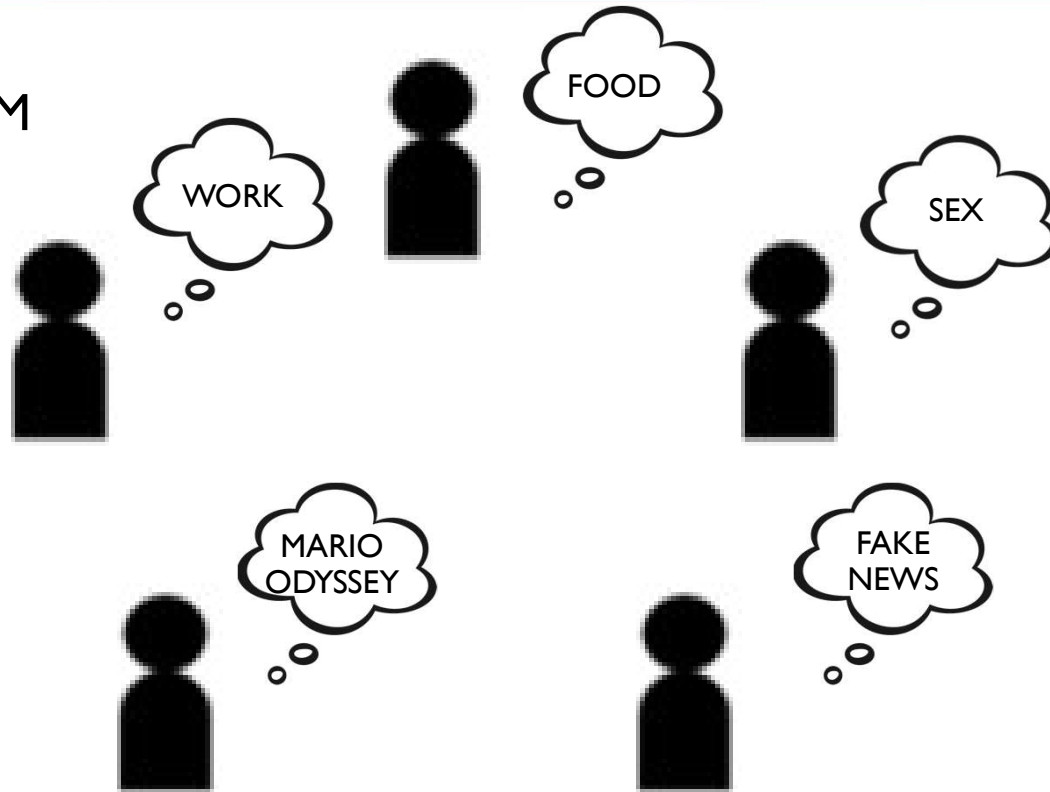
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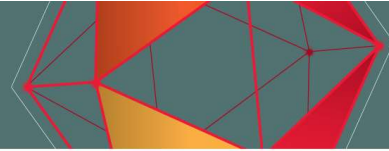


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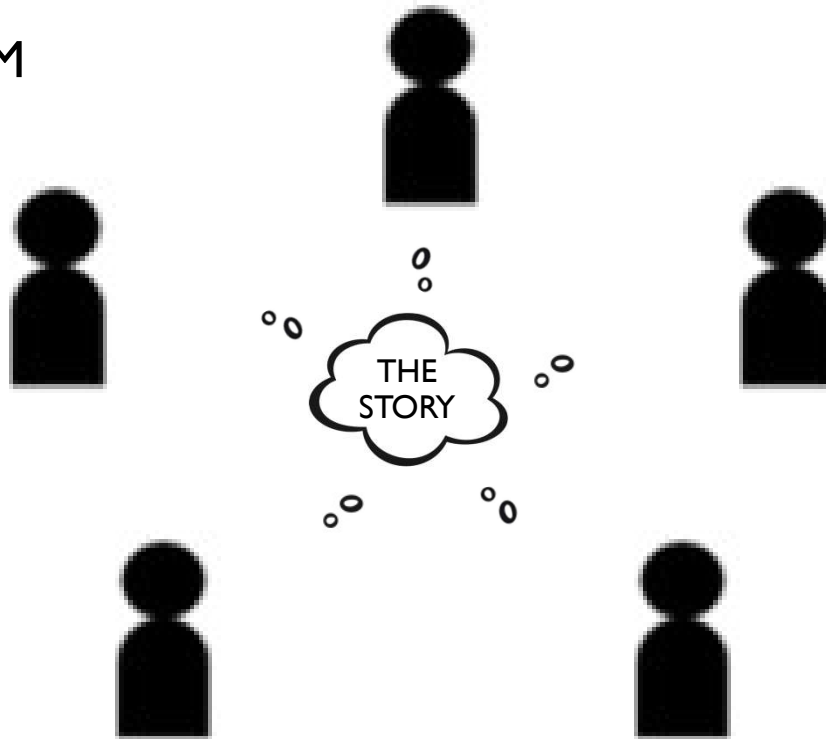


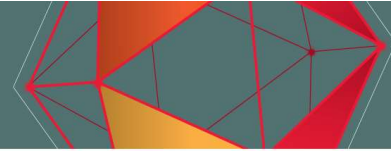
ANY KIND OF ROOM



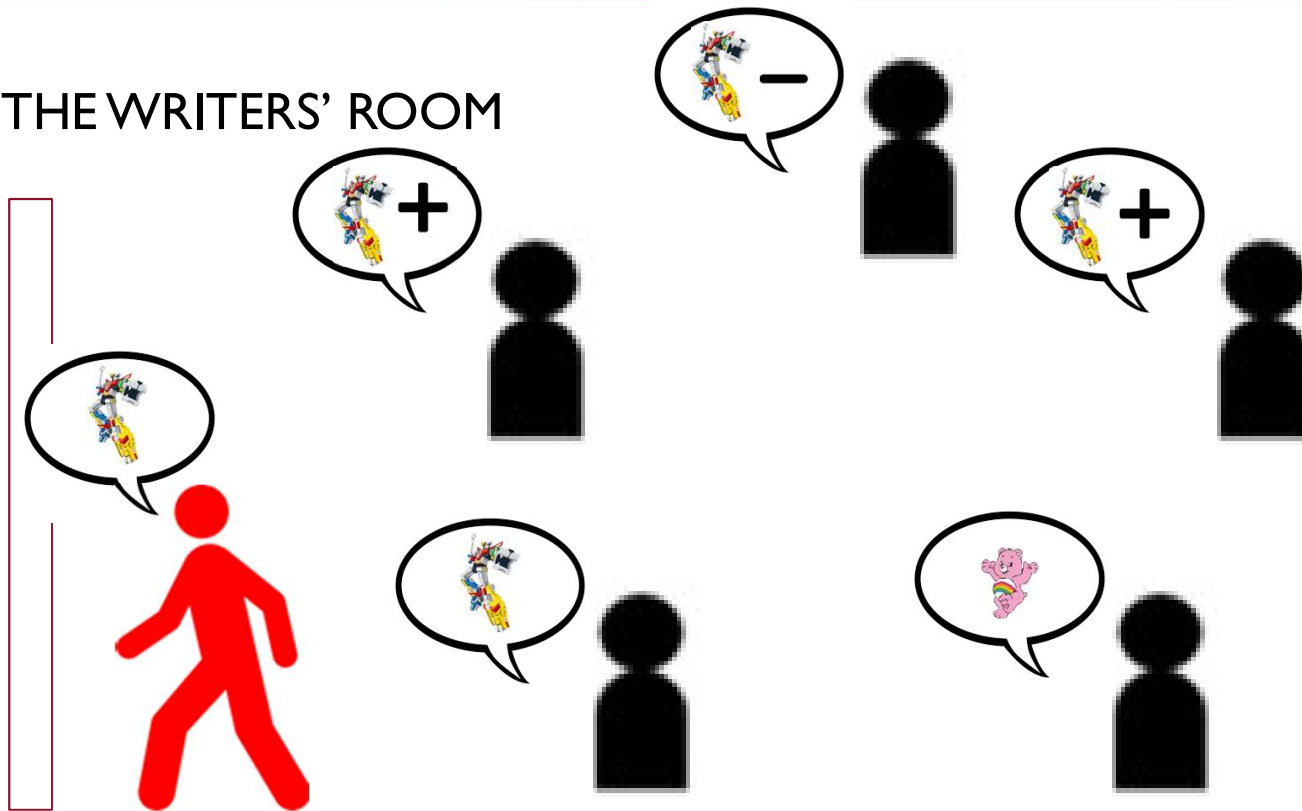


THE WRITERS' ROOM



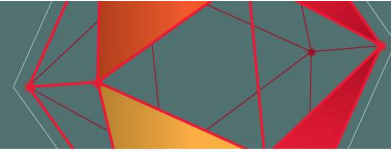


THE WRITERS' ROOM





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THE WRITERS' ROOM

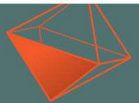


OR



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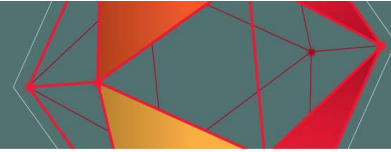
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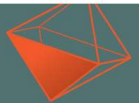
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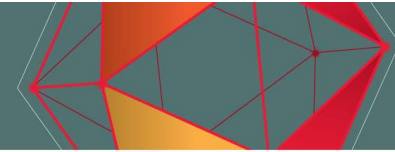
NO ASSHOLES.

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THE LIFE IS STRANGE: BEFORE THE STORM TEAM

Jon Zimmerman (age: 32)

- BA from Brandeis in Journalism, Creative Writing
- MFA from USC in Film Production
- Writer and director of numerous indie films and documentaries
- Taught interactive fiction in enrichment programs for kids

Felice Kuan (age: 34)

- BA from Princeton in Mathematics
- MA from Harvard in Education
- MFA from NYU in Musical Theater Writing
- Taught SAT/ACT Prep, Tutored Math
- Extensive LARPer
- YA Fiction writer

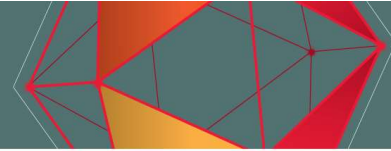
Mallory Littleton (age: 21)

- AA from CFS in Film Production with an emphasis in Screenwriting
- Written, directed, assistant directed, DPed, gripped, and everything else on numerous shorts and indie features
- Watches and plays everything
- Dislikes nearly all of it





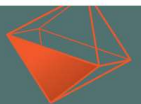
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A CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY

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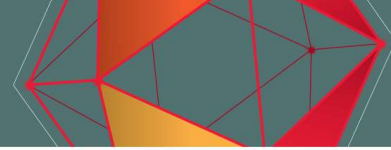
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ROOM STEWARDSHIP

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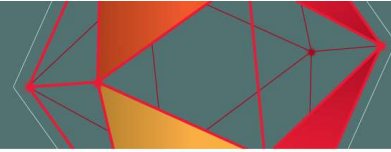
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BE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF YOUR TEAM'S BEHAVIOR...
...AND HIGHLY FORGIVING OF THEIR MISTAKES.

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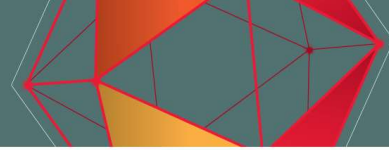
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GREAT
MODEL BEING A ~~GOOD~~ RECIPIENT OF CRITICISM

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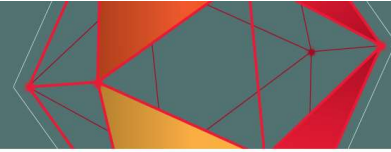
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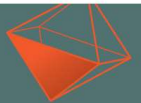
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THE “MAKE YOUR CASE” RULE

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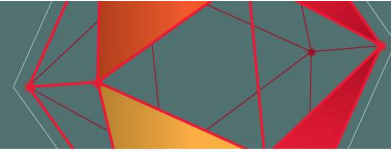
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A MECHANISM FOR MAKING DECISIONS

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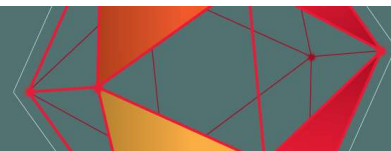
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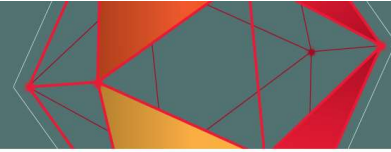
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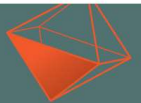
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JUST KIDDING IT'S THE LEAD WRITER.

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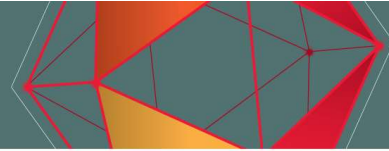
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YOU'RE GOING TO BE WRONG, BUT...
JUST TRY TO BE RIGHT MOST OF THE TIME.
(LIKE...85%)

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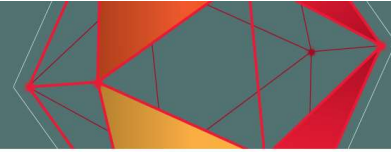
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TRUST YOURSELF.

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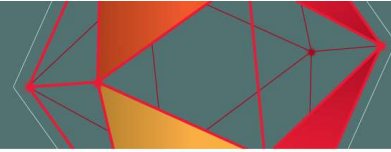
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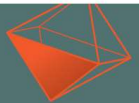


QUESTIONS?

AFTERWARD: WEST HALL LEVEL 3 OVERLOOK 3024

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