

Podcast: *From Ceremony Up* presented by *On Being III*

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Transcript

Emily:

During your time working with CEC, you know, what were you hoping to explore or to achieve specifically through that partnership? And how did this residency look in the end? You know, what might have surprised you? And what might you share with somebody who's looking to tell their story in a similarly new and emergent way.

Lyana:

So I think I said this already, but I will say it again. I am so grateful to the Creative Entanglement Collaboratory for helping to finish this podcast. Because right from the very beginning, what I hoped to achieve with the podcast was to carry forward some of the complexities of this story. yeah, like you said, storytelling is- is a constant theme through all of the work that I've done and the power of it and the importance of it. And so I wanted to just share that more broadly. And there's all sorts of things that I learned, including that there are so many different ways that you can make a podcast. you can have a microphone and a laptop. And maybe a closet or some- or just a blanket over your head! I don't know. You can create your own studio pretty easily and you can whip it up in no time. And I think it's brilliant. I love, know, years ago in my master's thesis, I wrote about the democratization of video and film because, you know, it was going digital and it was going, it was becoming much more accessible. And people were going to be able to tell their own stories in a way that they hadn't before. And I feel like this is the same with- with podcasting... And also what I learned was that that depending on what you wanted to do could also take a lot of work that you wanted to assemble like people who had some knowledge, who had some experience, and that you know if you wanted to have you know a complex story and you wanted to layer in different sounds, you wanted to do different things, then you had to have a lot of intentionality. So what I learned was, you know, the brainstorming and knowing what kind of story you want to tell and that sort of upfront piece, which is always how I've done my film work as well, my video work, which is to spend a lot of time on the process of like, you know, What is the message? What is the story you're telling? And then bringing in the right people to help you to do that. And, you know, as I've already mentioned, I had Research Assistants and- including yourself, who early on helped to move things along and I had, you know, a project manager and but you know, of course in academia people also move on to other projects, funding ends, different things happen, people graduate or have other obligations. So, I think in terms of academic podcasting, there's a lot of really good lessons to learn.

And I think for me, yeah, those were some really big ones was being, yeah, just being very intentional and maybe like, maybe also... Because I feel like sometimes I had this thought and I had this vision of what I wanted it to be and I got a bit stuck in it. And I think being open to different ways of doing things, which usually I'm fairly open to how we do things. But, for some reason with this project, I was like, has to have, you know, we have to have a community co-

host. Like it's so important that somebody from community is involved. And I really want to go to community events and have all sorts of layered sound. And I want to be in different places and I want to you know... almost a hybrid between like a story and an investigative piece and some interviews like I had this I had these ideas about how to tell this like complex story and it's not that they were bad ideas, it's just that I could have probably let some things go or realize that for example and I think this is maybe the one of my big ones is that not, like it's not everybody feels comfortable in, you know, being the host, you know. Or being in the hot seat and hearing their voice and you know it's a very nerve-wracking experience and I realized I'm used to it I've been doing this for- for quite a while and I'm okay with it but you know other- other people are not and so, that's okay. You know, so I guess following my own advice is always a good thing you know in research if you're not hearing back from people things are not moving, like it's a good sign that maybe the time is not right. And yeah you- you learn to- to move on or to do other things and it's the same with the- the podcasting, it's like. So I was just really glad that when it all came down to it that. The timing was really great and I do feel like it was very much meant to be that we- we finished it in the way we did yeah.

Emily Blyth: And I'm ~ so ~ grateful for the opportunity to bring these stories to life in the way that we have. And I know that, you know, we've talked to different points about, okay, well, we could layer in some of those things and we could take the time perhaps to seek out a community host or to go on the land and take recordings. And, we had a lot of conversations about that. And in the end, it- there's no sort of right answer. And what we were saying, at that time is, you we can do all of these things, but it means a further delay in bringing these stories out and to honouring the folks that we have these recordings with and these interviews with by getting their stories out there in a way that feels, you know, as timely as can be. And I know for Coco and I that we have just been so honoured to be a part of getting those stories out there. And I was speaking with Coco yesterday and they mentioned even like coming to tears listening to the stories and the power of the storytellers that you brought together in this project. So I think it's an interesting role to be in, to have this project in front of us. And I think back to even the scoping review that we did together during my PhD, right? And there's this way that you could never finish the project because you're always trying to make it that much more robust or that much closer to this vision that you may have had. And I think, perhaps maybe the answer to some of that is doing these things in relationship so that the weight of these decisions doesn't feel like it's all or nothing about you making things happen exactly the way that you envision. And pushing back against- against that narrative of things needing to fit a certain form.

Lyana: I, no- no, I appreciate those reflections a lot. And it's funny when I hear this spoken out loud, it's, because I am a very collaborative person. As I said, I'm open to other ways of doing things. So it's funny that I felt very... yeah, in some ways, less- not less flexible, but just very tied into these particular ideas. And yeah, and so I think it's just a really good lesson to, to free up your creative spirit when it comes to audio or something. I'm not, I don't know, yeah.

Emily: Yeah, yeah. And you know... it may be that that some of those impulses are the, you know, the seeds of a future project or the seeds of, you know, what a different storytelling adventure might sound like.