

# We Re-Member

By Amy Oestreicher

I wrote the short play “We Re Member” based on my grandmother’s story. I’m so thrilled that her legacy has reached so many others...

Jessie and Sam are sisters carrying a resilient legacy. The sisters’ disagreement of what to do with a box of fabrics, becomes a conflict of philosophies. Is a legacy more valuable once it’s broken apart and repurposed, or kept as is? As the Lower East Side has reinvigorated itself with new life as a thriving district with a bold, new identity, they search for the best way to keep a family story alive.

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## “Ellis”

In Milwaukee, WE RE MEMBER was a part of “Ellis,” a theater work based on immigrant stories.

*“ But difference and distance also engender opportunity; one has the requisite space to remake the old into something new, benefiting from the best of both. This dialectic is best captured in Amy Oestreicher’s “We Re Member,” performed by Kaufman and Murguia as American offspring of a recently deceased Holocaust survivor. Using repurposed clothing to give its message texture, this piece captures the combination of guilt, regret and ambivalence toward one’s own identity that’s experienced by every succeeding generation, ever more distant from an increasingly mythologized history, now often no longer accessible except through story. Which makes such stories – like the stories presented here – invaluable. They connect us to a receding past, on which we gaze with longing and love, even as we’re blown backward into an uncertain future.”*

- Journal Sentinel

Additional “Ellis” Press:

- HERStory3 in New Haven, CT: <https://youtu.be/igSLSiQOyT8>
- [http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com/entertainment/cooperative-performance-tackles-immigration-in-ellis/article\\_0ed5fe92-0dca-11e8-a3ac-07193933aa91.html](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com/entertainment/cooperative-performance-tackles-immigration-in-ellis/article_0ed5fe92-0dca-11e8-a3ac-07193933aa91.html)
- <https://shepherdexpress.com/arts-and-entertainment/theater/cooperative-performances-ellis/>

NYC Dixon Place Leela Festival

<https://youtu.be/ds5sZ3K3Nv0>

As the Lower East Side has reinvigorated itself with new life as a thriving district with a bold, new identity, JESSIE and SAM search for the best way to keep their Grandparents' story alive and vital. How do we put our own meaning together? How do we re-member the pieces of our lives and honor those who came before us?

JESSIE and SAM are two middle-class sisters with their own unique sense of confidence, ideals and identities. Both are equally vulnerable, but in their own distinct way.

## Theatre's "Women Leading" 2019 Play Series

<https://www.itineranttheatre.com/productions/>

<https://www.itineranttheatre.com/new-play-series-2019-women-leading-press-release/>

"Because it is a thousand pities never to say what one feels, he thought..."

— Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway

It was an honor to read the role of Sam in my short play "We Re Member" to celebrate untold, vibrant stories, thanks to the Foreign Voices Festival!

"It takes courage to stand up for yourself. I stand in honor, and no longer in fear of speaking out."

— Catherine Jane Fisher