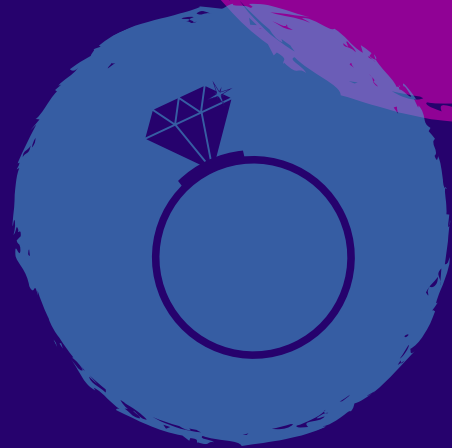
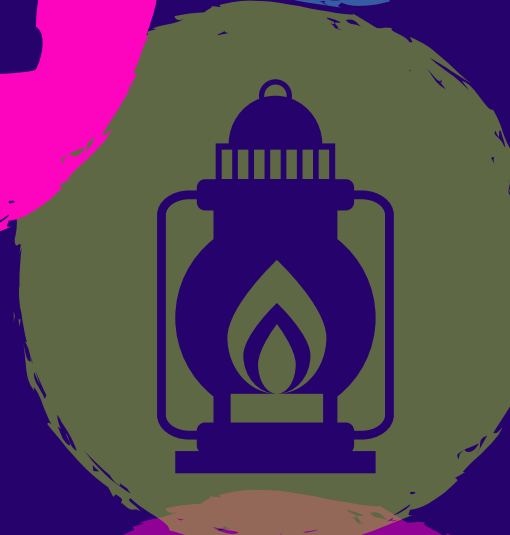
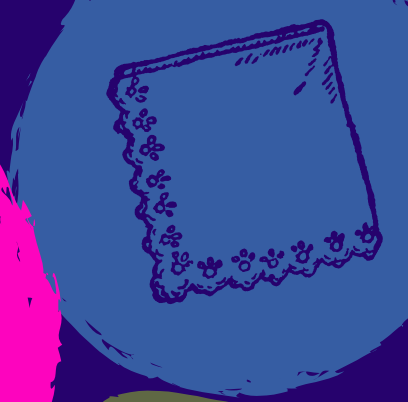
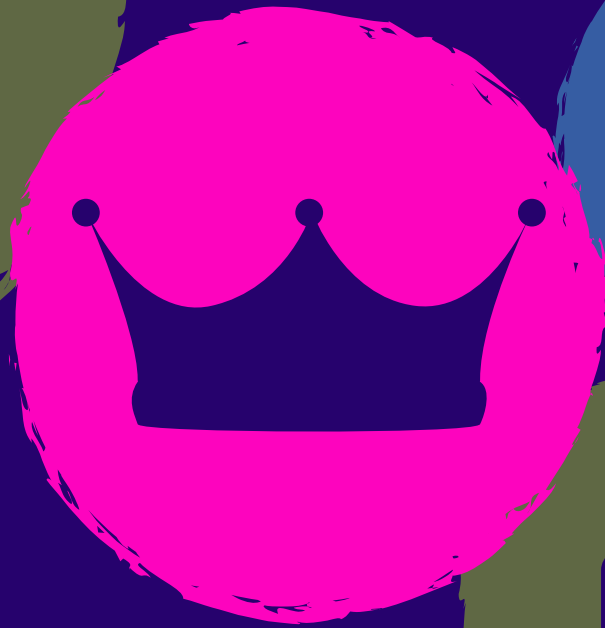




**ABLE**  
artists breaking limits & expectations

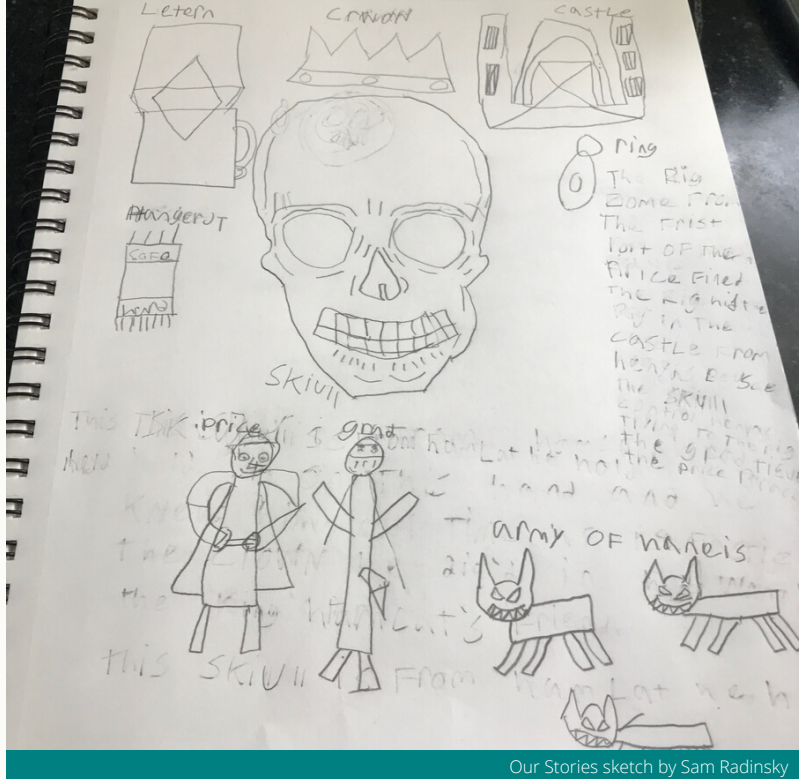


# 0 FOR A MUSE

original stories inspired by  
Shakespeare's famous props

**VOLUME 1 OF 5**

**THE ABUNDANT CROWN PRINCE**



Our Stories sketch by Sam Radinsky

## LET US ON YOUR IMAGINARY FORCES WORK...

### What can we make together?

After the success of ***O for a Muse: Part 1*** in the winter of 2019, A.B.L.E.'s adult ensemble was excited to devise a theatrical event inspired by a new batch of iconic Shakespearean props - a crown, a ring, a lantern, a handkerchief, and a skull. The ensemble was 3 weeks into rehearsals when the COVID-19 pandemic up-ended our lives in Chicago, and lives of people around the globe.

We found ourselves in a brave new world, without a rehearsal room, without a theatre, but with a lot of hope. In the weeks since, our entire team has tested our resiliency, learned new ways to work together, and remained determined to share our stories.

**When the world feels topsy-turvy, that's when the arts are the most valuable.** It can lift your spirits to connect with your community, to know you have something to contribute, and to create something new. That is what A.B.L.E. has always been about. And it's in that spirit that we forged ahead with a new vision for ***O for a Muse***.

Each volume of our short story collection features an original story and illustrations by our ensemble of actors with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. In these pages, you'll also find an opportunity to use your imagination and create something yourself. We believe everyone is A.B.L.E. to connect, to contribute, and to create. And that includes you, dear reader.

Whether onstage or on the page, our stories cannot come to life without an audience. Thank you for reading.

**KATIE YOHE**

Founder & Executive Artistic Director

# O FOR A MUSE

SHORT STORY COLLECTION

VOLUME 1 OF 5

## FEATURE

**The Abundant Crown Prince**  
page 2

## CREATE YOUR OWN

**Madlibs**  
page 12

**Illustrations**  
page 14

## BEHIND THE SCENES

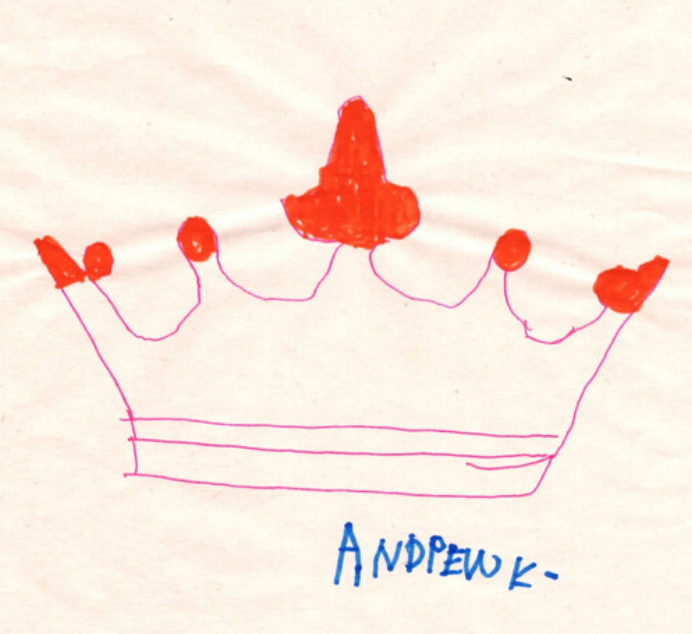
**Our process**  
page 16

**Meet the ensemble**  
page 20

**Credits**  
page 22

**For other stories and exclusive content, visit:**

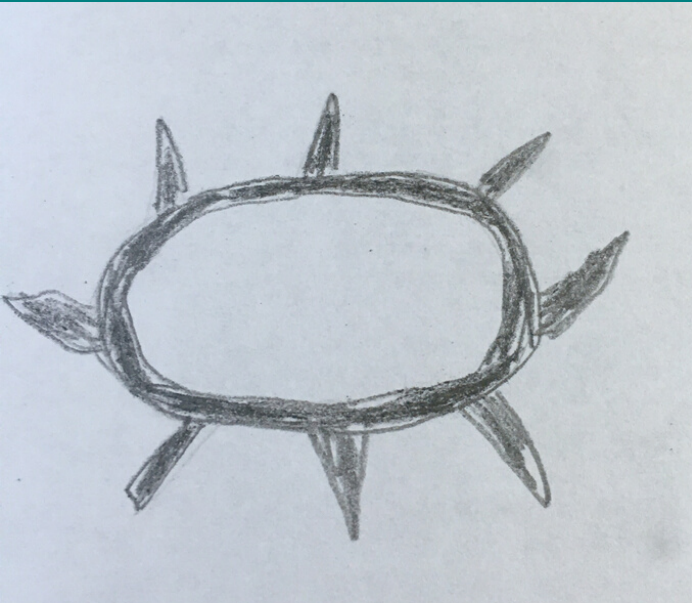
[www.ableensemble.com/muse](http://www.ableensemble.com/muse)



The crown by Andrew Kosnik



The many-towered castle by Sam Radinsky



The silver crown by Matt Danaher

# THE ABUNDANT CROWN PRINCE

Story & Illustrations by  
The A.B.L.E. Ensemble

**Our story begins on a cold, dark night.**

High atop a snowy mountain in Austria sits a castle with 100 towers. In the furthest tower, all the way at the top of the spire, a tall, sad, handsome prince is imprisoned.



The Prince visits the people of the Kingdom on horseback by Andrew Kosnik

Our prince was not always sad.

Not long ago, he lived a happy life. He enjoyed singing and dancing to “Everybody Dance Now” and watching movies about Tinkerbell. **And the people of his kingdom loved him because he could heal all their ills. He could do this because he had a magic crown.**

The crown had been passed down through many generations. It was first found by the prince’s great-great grandfather whose name was Lawrence....



WELCOME TO:  
THE PINEAPPLE  
FOREST!  
又々 迎

**Lawrence was out for a walk one day among the pineapple trees in Asia, and spotted something shiny and silver under a tree.** At first, Lawrence thought it was a cape or maybe a little lamp. As he got closer, he realized it was, in fact, a stunning silver crown!

He tried it on, but it didn't fit. As he looked around, he noticed something hanging from the pineapple tree. It was a book! Not just any book - this was a spell book made just for the crown!

Lawrence flipped through the book and found a fitting spell that made the crown fit perfectly upon his head. And it has fit perfectly on the head of every king and prince since then. Including our sad prince.



Through the years, the prince's ancestors mastered the crown spellbook. The crown could do many things. It could turn people invisible. It could make food, like a whole bunch of pizzas. And it could even make people dance. The ancestors vowed to use it only for good. They focused on learning spells to heal the sick, and do other nice things like giving bear hugs, and giving money to the poor.

### **But then everything changed.**

Unfortunately, the prince's father, King Anvrabay was not so kind. He and Queen Sarah wanted to use the crown for their own needs. They got greedy. They used the crown to give them a special edition DVD of *Annie the Musical*, and to take trips to NYC. They ignored the people in the kingdom.



Queen Sarah by Sam Radinsky

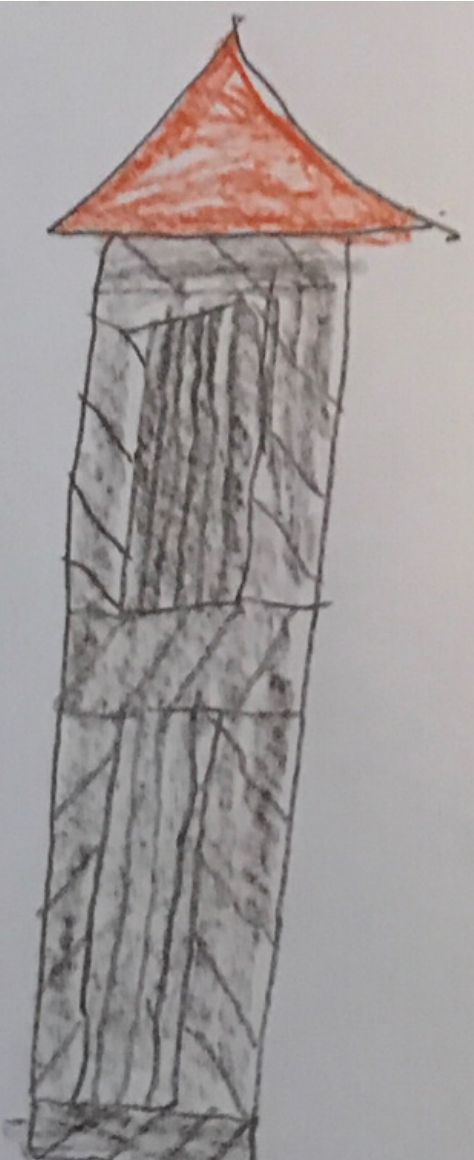
King Anvrabay by Martin Conway



The prince tried to help. At night, he would steal the crown and the spell book from his father's chamber and ride into town on his horse Katie, to help the people.

Then, one day, he got caught.

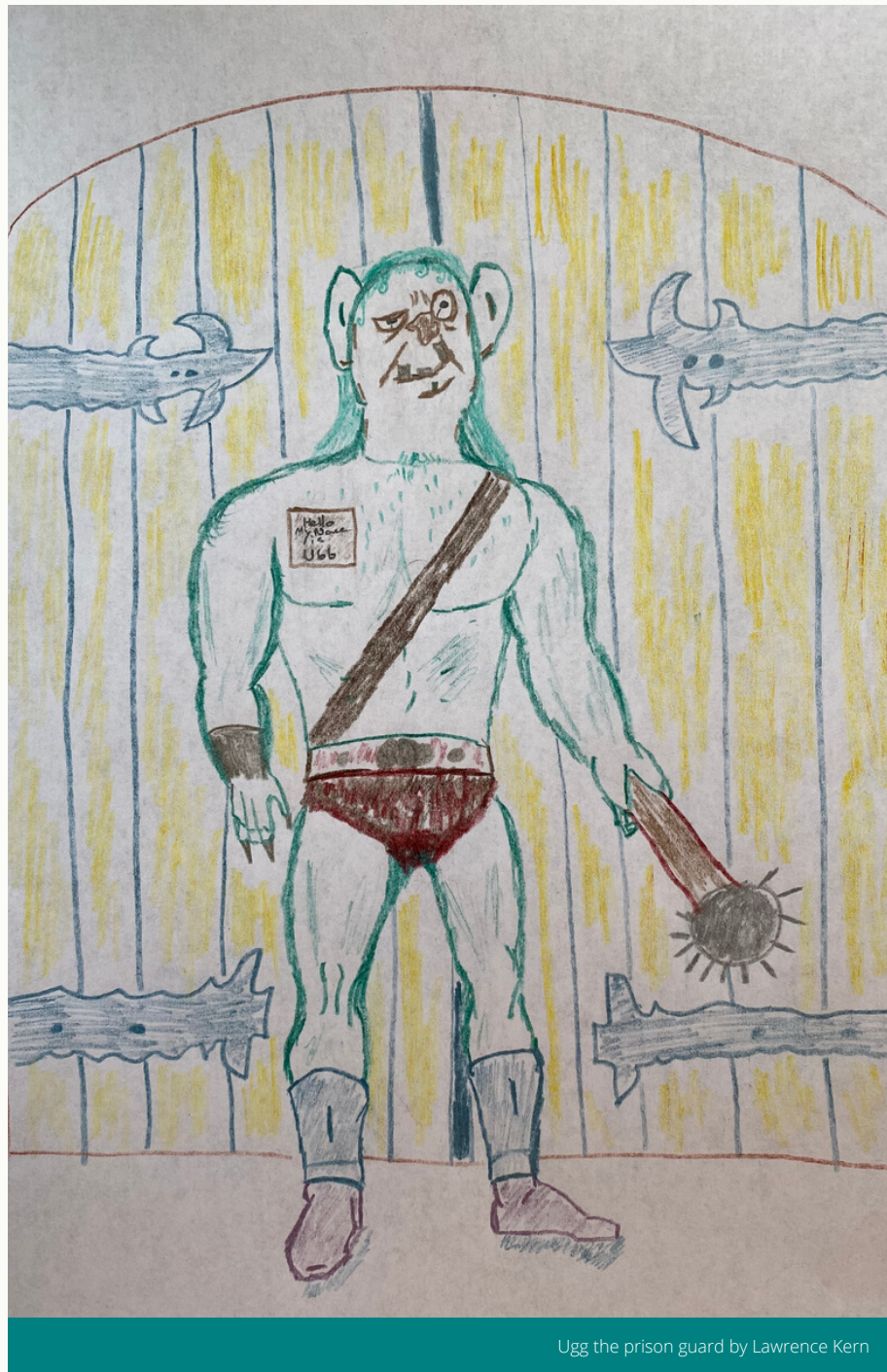
**And now he sits in the high tower awaiting his punishment. The Evil Queen Sarah has declared "Off with his head!" in the morning.**





The sad prince sits in his tower prison. It seems all hope is lost. The room is slimy and dark, and it is guarded by a goofy guard named Ugg. No one would ever mess with Ugg. It's rumored that he could fight, choke, punch and hit better than any fighter who ever fought.

Suddenly the Prince hears a scratching at the door of his tower cell. It's Ugg!



Ugg the prison guard by Lawrence Kern

**“I want to help you!” Ugg says. “You used the crown to make my family fly and fed them ice cream when they were starving. And I’ve never forgotten it. I can get you out of here.”**

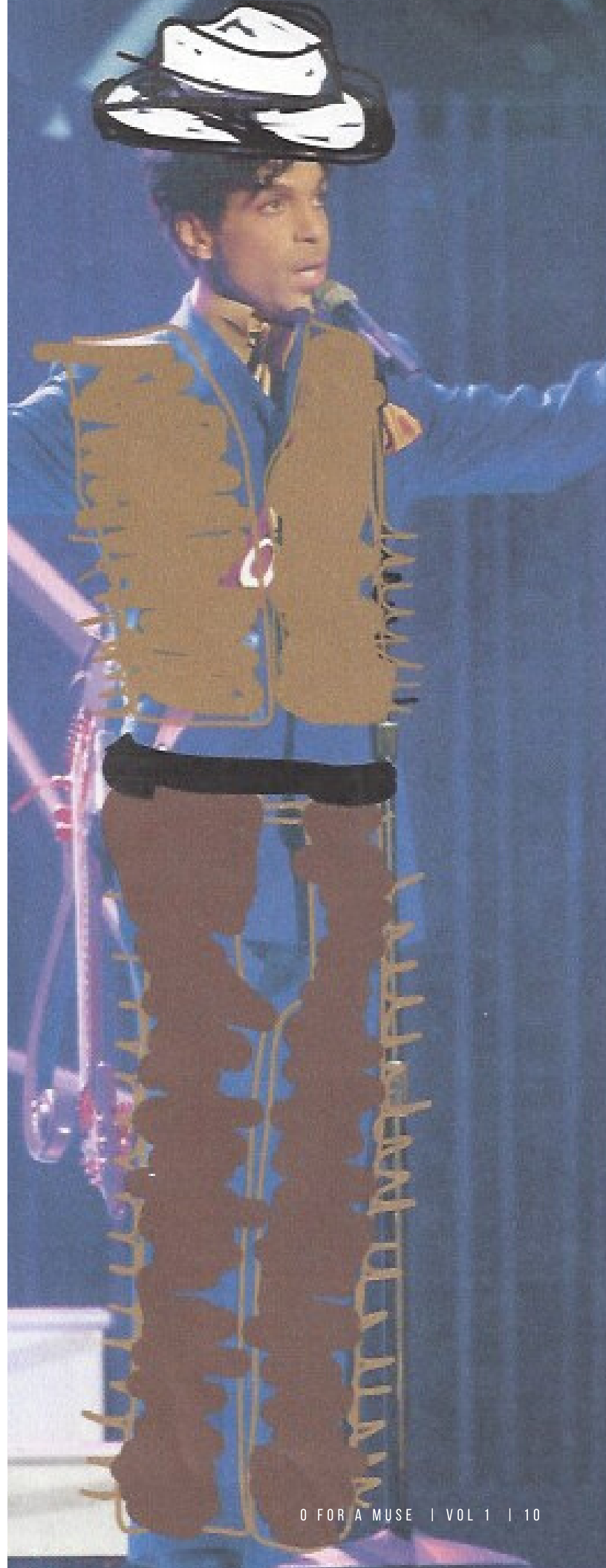
Very quietly, Ugg and the prince whispered and they made their plan:

When the King and Queen come to the cell in the morning to carry out the Prince's sentence, Ugg will open the cell door and lead the Prince out in handcuffs. Only, the handcuffs won't be locked!

As King Anvrabay gets closer, the Prince will snap his wrists out of the handcuffs and snatch the crown from the king's head. He knows the crown's magic well. Once the crown is in his hands, he can use it to summon anything.

**He will summon a cowboy outfit, complete with two pistols that he can use to kill the greedy King Anvrabay and Queen Sarah. Then he will ride off on his horse to help the people once again!**

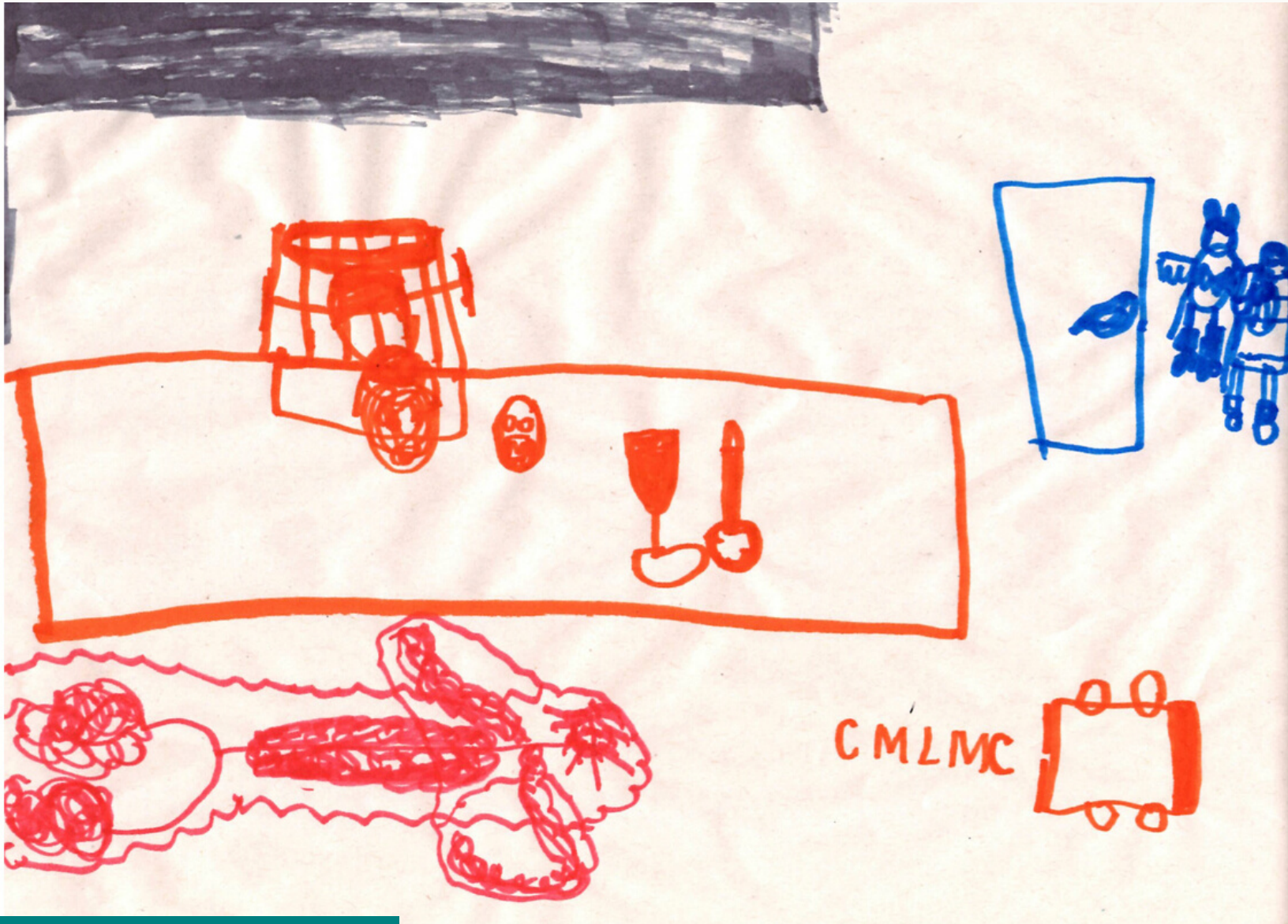
THE PRINCE  
TO BECOME  
BOY

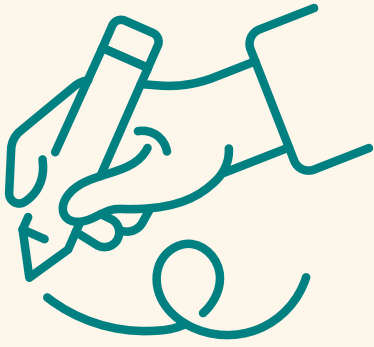


Dreaming of being a Cowboy Prince by Sam Radinsky (upper right)  
Arin Mulvaney (bottom right)  
Peter Grzeslo (left)

Now, our tall, handsome prince is not sad.

**He just has to wait until sunrise...**





# CREATE YOUR OWN MADLIBS

## How do you think the story should go?

*Work with a friend, or by yourself to write your own version of  
The Story of the Crown by filling in the blanks below.*

Our story begins on a cold, dark night. High atop a snowy mountain in Austria sits a castle with **(How many?)** \_\_\_\_\_ towers. In the furthest tower, all the way at the top of the spire, a tall, sad, handsome prince is imprisoned.

Our prince was not always sad. Not long ago, he lived a happy life. He enjoyed **(Favorite activity #1)** \_\_\_\_\_, **(Favorite activity #2)** \_\_\_\_\_, and **(Favorite activity #3)** \_\_\_\_\_. And the people of his kingdom loved him because he could heal all their ills. He could do this because he had a magic crown.

The crown had been passed down through many generations. It was first found by the prince's **(Great times how many?)** \_\_\_\_\_ grandfather whose name was **(Ancestor's name)** \_\_\_\_\_.

He was out for a walk one day among the pineapple trees in Asia, and saw something shiny and silver under a tree. At first, the prince's ancestor thought it was a **(What else is shiny?)** \_\_\_\_\_ or maybe a **(What else is silver?)** \_\_\_\_\_. As he got closer, he realized it was, in fact, a stunning silver crown. He tried it on, but it didn't fit. As he looked around, he noticed something hanging from the pineapple tree. It was a book! Not just any book - this was a spell book made just for the crown. The Ancestor flipped through the book and found a fitting spell that made the crown fit perfectly upon his head. And it has fit perfectly on the head of every king and prince since then. Including our sad prince.

Through the years, the prince's ancestors mastered the crown spell book. The crown could do many things. It could turn people invisible. It could **(Magic power #2)** \_\_\_\_\_. And it could even **(Magic power #3)** \_\_\_\_\_.

The ancestors vowed to use it only for good. They focused on learning spells to heal the sick, and do other nice things for people like **(What's something nice we can do for other people?)** \_\_\_\_\_.

But then everything changed. Unfortunately, the prince's father, King **(What is the King's name)** \_\_\_\_\_ was not so kind. He and the Queen **(What is the Queen's name)** \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to use the crown for their own needs. They got greedy. They used the crown to give them **(Something awesome)** \_\_\_\_\_. And to take trips to **(Someplace awesome)** \_\_\_\_\_. They ignored the people in the kingdom.

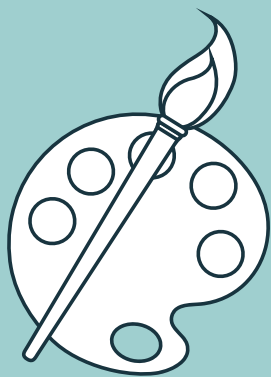
The prince tried to help. At night, he would steal the crown and the spellbook from his father's chamber and ride into town on his horse **(What's the horse's name?)** \_\_\_\_\_, to help the people. But one day. He got caught. And now he sits in the high tower awaiting his punishment. The Evil Queen has declared **(what is his punishment?)** \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning.

Now, the sad prince sits in his tower prison. It seems all hope is lost. The room is **(Word #1 to describe the prison)** \_\_\_\_\_ and **(Word #2 to describe the prison)** \_\_\_\_\_, and it is guarded by a **(Describe the guard)** \_\_\_\_\_ guard named **(What is the guard's name)** \_\_\_\_\_. No one would ever mess with the Guard. He is so strong, it's rumored that he could **(What can you do if you're super strong?)** \_\_\_\_\_. But suddenly the Prince hears a scratching at the door of his tower cell. It's the Guard! "I want to help you!" the Guard tells him. "You used the crown to **(What did the prince do that helped the guard or the guard's family?)** \_\_\_\_\_.

And I've never forgotten it. I can get you out of here."

Very quietly, they whispered and they made their plan: When the King and Queen come to the cell in the morning to carry out the Prince's sentence, the guard will open the cell door and lead the Prince out in handcuffs. Only, the handcuffs won't be locked. As the King gets closer, the Prince will snap his wrists out of the handcuffs and reach for the crown on the king's head. He knows the crown's magic well, and once it's in his hands, he can use it to summon anything. He will summon himself a cowboy outfit, complete with two pistols that he can use to kill the greedy King and Queen. Then he can ride off on his horse to the village to once again help the people.

Now, our tall, handsome prince is not sad. He just has to wait until sunrise...

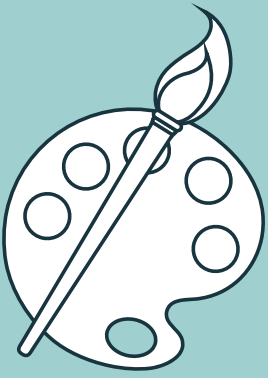


# CREATE YOUR OWN ILLUSTRATIONS

**What is your favorite moment from this story?**

*Grab some crayons, colored pencils, or markers and use these blank spaces to put your imagination on paper.*

A large, empty white rectangular area intended for drawing or writing.



# Need some inspiration?

Here are some ideas from our ensemble

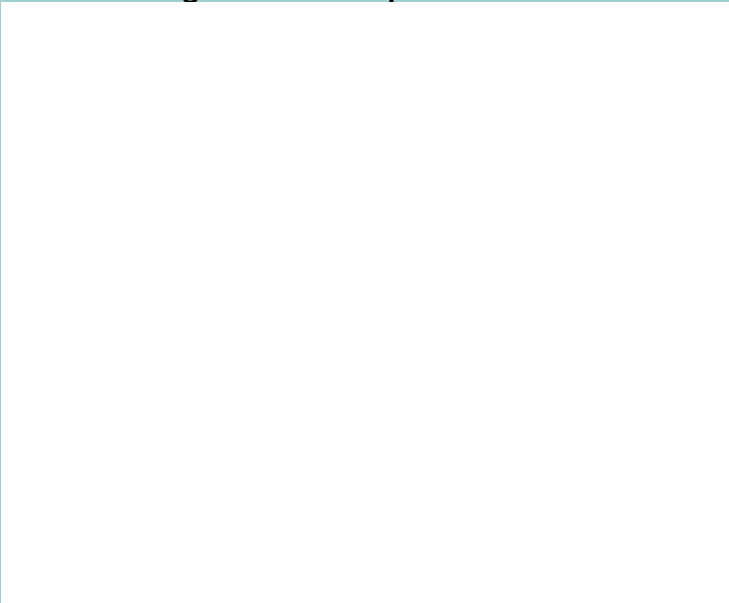
**Draw: A Castle with many towers**



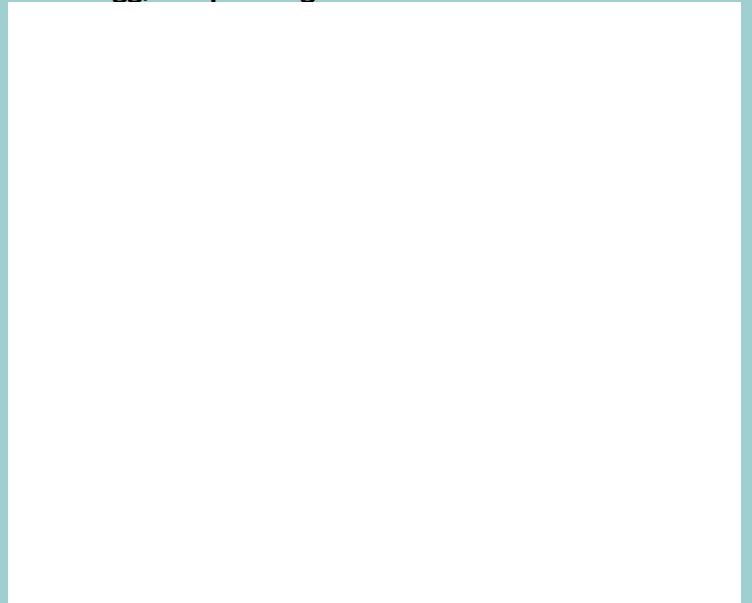
**Draw: The tall, sad, handsome prince in prison**



**Draw: The magic crown and spell book**



**Draw: Ugg, the prison guard**



**We want to see what you've created!**

Snap a photo of your artwork or your madlibs  
and share on social media using the hashtag #ableensemble and #oforamuse



@ableensemble



# MAKING OUR STORIES

*A look at A.B.L.E.'s devising process*



## IN PERSON

Before Chicago's shelter-in-place order went into effect, A.B.L.E.'s adult ensemble had **3 in person rehearsals** at The Menomonee Club Drucker Center. You can see photos from our time together on pages 18 and 19.

**In Week 1**, actors focused on **ensemble building**, and basic **improvisational skills**. As with all A.B.L.E. sessions, the group developed teamwork, listening, and creativity.

**In Week 2**, actors **devised** the basics stories for our 5 Shakespearean objects. Objects were spread around the studio with a facilitator and a big piece of paper at each station.

Actors broke into pairs or trios and rotated around the room, with each group answering a different question about each object (*see next page*). Each actor had a chance to answer one question about each object, so these stories truly belong to everyone.

**In Week 3**, actors dug deeper into the stories by creating **tableaux** of the primary locations and improvising short interactions between characters. They also played with scenes from some Shakespeare plays including *Richard III*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*.

## ONLINE

A.B.L.E. shifted to **weekly online rehearsals via Zoom** on March 17th. Zoom rehearsals keep the same format as in-person rehearsals, with a **dance party, warm up, and ample time for ensemble games**.

With the basic structure of each story in place, actors played **madlibs** (*see page 12-14*) to add details and life to each story. The ensemble worked on 2 stories each week, and used the time between classes to **draw pictures** of their favorite moments.

In addition to focusing on the tales, actors also practiced **on-camera acting skills** by filming Shakespeare monologues and group activities. You can see these film projects across A.B.L.E.'s social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



# DEVisING QUESTIONS



**WHO** does this object belong to?



**WHERE** did this object come from and **WHERE** does our story take place?



**WHEN** was this object made and **WHEN** does our story take place?

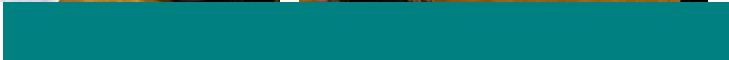
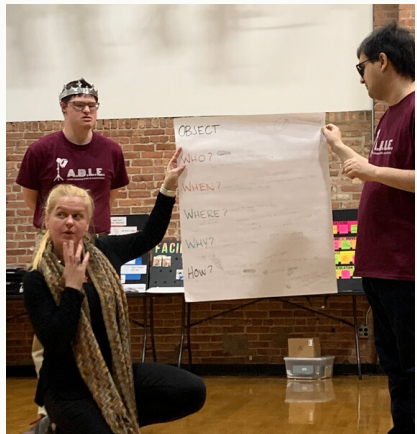


**WHY** is this object special?



**HOW** does our story end?

# OUR TIME TOGETHER



# DEVISING AND IMPROVISING



# MEET THE ENSEMBLE



photo by Mariana Gongora

## **A.B.L.E.'s adult ensemble meets every Tuesday afternoon.**

Supported by a team of teaching artists and volunteer facilitators, ensemble members work together to create theatre and film projects while strengthening lifelong skills including communication, confidence, and cooperation.



**BEN**

**My catchphrase is,,,**  
"What the heaven?!"



**MARTY**

**I would like to go...**  
To Los Angeles to be a famous actor. I will have a house with a swimming pool.



**MATT D.**

**My catchphrase is,,,**  
"Seriously?"



**PETER**

**I would like to learn...**  
how to play an instrument.



**ANDREW**

**My catchphrase is...**  
"Are you ready?"



**EMILY K.**

**Something special to me...**  
pictures of me with my family and my sister Anna.



**MATT L.**

**I would like to go...**  
To the future to see myself and know that it's going to turn out okay.



**EMILY L.**

**I would like to learn...**  
How to talk to animals.



**MADDI**

**Something special to me...**  
I have a statue of the Eiffel Tower from my trip to Paris.



**JUSTICE**

**Something special to me...**  
A statue of a mother and baby elephant. I love elephants and my mom.



**SAM**

**I would like to learn...**  
to speak fluent sign language.



**JAKE**

**I would like to go...**  
to the movies, diners, shopping and entertainment when we get back to normal.



**A.B.L.E.**  
artists breaking limits & expectations

A.B.L.E. - Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations - is a Chicago-based nonprofit that creates theatre and film for, with, and by individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. A.B.L.E.'s mission is to provide performing arts opportunities through which individuals with these disabilities can share who they are and all they are A.B.L.E. to do. Through its core teen and adult ensembles, specialized workshops, and outreach programming, A.B.L.E.'s actors strengthen lifelong skills including communication, focus, creativity, and teamwork. A.B.L.E.'s ensembles have staged 20 plays ranging from original works to classics from Shakespeare, Dickens, and Gilbert & Sullivan, and have premiered 2 feature films which have been recognized by several local and international festivals. By promoting practices that place participants with disabilities in the spotlight, and giving them ownership over their experiences, A.B.L.E.'s work strives to shift societal preconceptions, and build more inclusive, empathetic communities.

## CONNECT WITH A.B.L.E.

 [www.ableensemble.com](http://www.ableensemble.com)

 [facebook.com/ableensemble](https://facebook.com/ableensemble)

 [@ableensemble](https://@ableensemble)

 [bit.ly/abletube](https://bit.ly/abletube)

 [admin@ableensemble.com](mailto:admin@ableensemble.com)

**O FOR A MUSE: VOLUME 1**  
**THE ABUNDANT CROWN PRINCE**  
RELEASED MAY 22, 2020

### THE ENSEMBLE

BENJAMIN COLLINS, MARTIN CONWAY, MATT DANAHER,  
PETER GRZESLO, ANDREW KOSNIK, EMILY KWIDZINSKI,  
MATTHEW LACHAPELLE, EMILY LAVIN, MADDI PEREZ,  
JUSTICE PETERS-FARRELL, SAM RADINSKY, &  
JAKE SOLWORTH

### TEACHING ARTISTS

LAWRENCE KERN & KATIE YOHE

### FACILITATORS

NETTE ANGELINI, CLAIRE CHRZAN, KARA DAVIDSON,  
ARIN MULVANEY & BEN RAANAN

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER  
KATIE MANN AND 4TH WALL THEATRE COMPANY  
THE MEMOMONEE CLUB DRUCKER CENTER

### OTHER VOLUMES IN THIS COLLECTION

THE RING AND THE MERMAID IN LOVE  
THE LANTERN: GOOD DEFEATS RIDDLE  
JUSTICE FOR GREASY KING LEAR  
ONCE UPON A HYENA TIME: THE STORY OF THE SKULL

We believe everyone is A.B.L.E.  
to connect, to contribute, and to create.  
Help us bring more projects to life.  
Visit [bit.ly/giveable](https://bit.ly/giveable) to make a donation.

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