

On Being the Warrior
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Faced with two pandemics, my school (somewhat mistakenly) trusted me enough to place me on two committees: a production committee, tasked with answering the question of what productions would look like during this academic year, and a DEI committee, which immediately instituted a mandatory Anti-Racism in Theatre course for all faculty, staff, and students. The following is a poem derived from an exercise that I learned in this class, with each line starting with the phrase "I Am."

I am Katy, named after a tiny town in Texas.
I am tiny, very tiny, and constantly reminded of my smallness.
I am full of big ideas for the future of American theatre.
I am very easily shoved to the side.
I am an Aries.
I am a Slytherin.
I am often told I am a little too much.
I am often put onto committees with important people in big rooms where they say "this is a great opportunity kate" and "we want to hear from YOU" and "you are here for a reason!"
I am often ignored in these big committee meetings with big important people deciding the fate of my education.
I am a student at Carnegie Mellon University.
I am a dramaturgy student.
I am very smart, but I am also very rarely valued in a room.
I am a dramaturg.
I am NOT a therapist.
I am an Asian woman.
I am frustrated with the representation of my people in this industry.
I am one of three students of color in the dramaturgy program.
I am one of four students actively working to restructure the school's DEI committee. For free.
I am constantly telling the school what they could be doing better.
I am screaming into a void.
I am being prepared for a career in an industry that I am desperately trying to destroy and rebuild.
I am ready to return to theatre.
I am determined to not return to the same theatre that we know and often loathe.
I am determined to return to a new American theatre and play an active role in its creation.
I am putting in so so much work.
I am tired.
I am too young to be as tired as I am.
I am losing hope in a better future every day.
I am rallying.
I am recognizing that I have to choose my fights.

I am a warrior.

But I don't always have to be.

Someone has to be the one to stay behind from the battle, ready to heal the wounds.

I am learning that maybe that's a better way to fight.