



**GREAT AMERICAN ADVENTURE with Lightning Rod Special**

Join Philly-based theater company, Lightning Rod Special, for a four-day intensive on our methods of performance as research. Alongside four LRS professional practitioners, you will train with us and learn our methodology for creating original performance work. The intensive will culminate in an informal sharing of new short pieces. Total beginners and advanced performers of all kinds are welcome. Did we mention: field trip to Six Flags?

Each LRS piece starts with a thematic curiosity along with a set of unanswerable questions. Our next show, slated for a premiere that will coincide with the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence, explores American mythmaking. One site of focus for this work is the American amusement park. Our process often begins with in-the-field research, so together we will enter a popular den of manufactured amusements and fabricated thrills: Six Flags Great Adventure. We will observe rhythms, behaviors, routines, architecture, landscape, and more as we study how amusement parks reflect, obscure, and advance a particular vision of America and a particular tradition of American mythmaking.

Lightning Rod Special is an award-winning Philadelphia-based company that collaboratively creates original performances through research and experimentation. Recent works include *SPEECH* (a poisonous love letter to cancel culture, FringeArts 2022), *The Appointment* (a musical satire singing and dancing through the absurdity of the American abortion debate, “Best Theater in 2019” in *New York Times*), and *Underground Railroad Game* (a time-traveling fever dream about American race relations, 2017 Obie Award for “Best New American Theater Work,” among the “top 25 shows in the past 25 years” in *New York Times*). [www.lightningrodspecial.com](http://www.lightningrodspecial.com)

**Wednesday, Oct. 18th** from 3-6pm

**Thursday, Oct. 19th** from 11-5pm @ Six Flags (tickets, meals, and transport included)

**Friday, Oct. 20th** from 11-5pm (with a lunch break)

**Saturday, Oct. 21st** from 11-2pm

**APPLICATION** due end of day on 9/25/23

LRS is curious about (re)constructions of American Greatness, cotton candy, “Main St., U.S.A.,” vomit, and fireworks. And we want to know more about what excites, disgusts, or baffles you about America's theme parks?

To apply, in an email to [info@lightningrodspecial.com](mailto:info@lightningrodspecial.com), please include your:

1. **NAME**
2. **YEAR**
3. **MAJORS/MINORS/CONCENTRATIONS**
4. Include a short personal statement (one or two paragraphs) about your curiosities related to the theme: What interests you about theme parks and/or other sites of American amusement?
5. Include two total pieces of source material in two different mediums (image, sound, text, video, an object), connected to your curiosities regarding theme parks (linked or attached).