



5th Annual Production of Speak: Performances From Women in the Yampa Valley

SPEAK 2021 was a recorded, virtual performance written and performed by women living in the Yampa Valley. The performance features a variety of styles from spoken word, to music. Inspired by the likes of 2 Dope Queens and Eve Ensler, SPEAK is a telling of the female experience in all its humor and tragedy in the modern, mountain world.

This year, after the harrowing trials and seemingly insurmountable strains of 2020, we invited participants to embrace VULNERABILITY. Renowned shame researcher, Brene Brown, describes vulnerability as the culmination of courage, compassion, and connection. We're not sure what your 2020 looked like, but we needed a lot of courage, compassion, and connection to make it through this year. For SPEAK 2021 submissions, we invited participants to be courageous in their (our) imperfections, choose not to numb, and honor intrinsic belonging in this world.

Get vulnerable for this year's SPEAK because **YOU ARE ENOUGH.**

Speak Participants

HANNAH SROOR - Wolf Logo Creator



My work explores the beauty and complexity of our natural environment, and what it can reveal about the human condition. In my current body of work, I explore everything from photography to three dimensional pieces.

Each piece, though vastly different, materializes out of solitary experiences in nature. I believe the Earth is the most authentic storyteller, and by simply observing and listening to it, we can learn so much. During my moments with nature, I focus on each of the uniquely beautiful relationships, only noticeable when one takes the time to really look. The dancing sunlight on a leaf, or the sinuous networks of roots are the kind of serendipitous moments that

truly inspire my creative process.

I find my practice to be a collaboration with the Earth, sharing inspiration and material. I am not only describing the living landscape that surrounds me, but also my relationship to it.

Hannah Sroor currently lives and works in Steamboat Springs, CO. Her work is inspired by animals, life cycles and the American West landscapes. Through bold mark making and attention to detail, her artwork highlights the both the fragility as well as the resilience of the natural world.

SARAH VALENTINO - Speak Host



Sarah enjoys keeping herself busy by volunteering as YBC's board president, working in mental health, creating miniature art, and going on adventures with her boyfriend and two dogs. Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, she first came to Steamboat Springs in 2010 and has been a proud victim of the Yampa Valley curse after seasons spent in southeast Alaska and California's Sierra Nevada mountains. She is a Slytherin- the resourceful and determined kind, not the bad kind.

Likes/Inspirations: Tom Robbins books, Georgia O'keefe, Frida Kahlo, My Favorite Murder Podcast, a good pair of leather shoes/boots, power tools,

The Great British Baking Show, anything Star wars or Marvel, 90s-early 2000s punk rock.

Speak Participants

CHELSIE MALYNN - Pendulum



Chelsie Malynn is a singer-songwriter from Michigan. She loves hiking, reading, and yoga, and is passionate about her work with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Her music can be found on Spotify and Apple Music.

Influences/inspiration: Joni Mitchell, Belle and Sebastian, the Dresden Dolls, Elliott Smith, and Fiona Apple.

MEGAN WYKUIS - Waiting, Hoping



Megan is a social worker, singer/songwriter, feminist, and fierce Ravenclaw. Megan has been in the Yampa Valley since 2011 and enjoys chasing after her one year old, mountain biking with her husband Aaron, and cross country skiing with their pup Tessa. Megan believes in using creativity to express yourself, using your voice to advocate for change, and hopes others will leave feeling empowered and inspired to share their own stories. Strength is demonstrated through vulnerability, openness, and a willingness to connect with others.

Likes/recommendations: Untamed by Glennon Doyle, Unlocking Us Podcast by Brene Brown, I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown, Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng, and The Popculty Podcast (yours truly is a guest about mental health representation in media).

BETH LAVELY - The Pee Poop Climb



Originally from Colorado, Beth recently found her way back to the state. Beth explains the mountains here are home, she was likely too blunt for the South East, 'bless her heart,' and that starting over sometimes really does mean packing boxes. Beth has built a career in human service, though she is focusing on furrier friends for the time being. Beth is a proud dog mom, sometimes climbs on rocks, and enjoys making people a little uncomfortable.

Thank You Participants!

Young Bloods Collective would like to extend a deep and sincere thank you to all of the participants for having the courage to be vulnerable with us, and allowing us to feel connected to you. We see you, we hear you & appreciate you!

