



TigerLion Arts
presents

Nature

A walking play.

*The mythic telling of Emerson and Thoreau's
mutual love affair with the natural world.*

August 19th - September 5th

Thursdays & Fridays - 6pm

Saturdays & Sundays - 3 & 6pm

Johanna Frerichs Garden for Wildlife
at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

TigerLion Arts is a Minneapolis-based production company.
We celebrate human wisdom and the spirit of Nature
through creative works that awaken, inform, and delight.

www.tigerlion.org



Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"Standing on the bare ground, — my head bathed by the blithe air
and uplifted into infinite space, — all mean egotism vanishes. I be-
come a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the
Universal Being circulate through me; I am part and parcel of God."*

Henry David Thoreau



“We can never have enough of Nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder-cloud, and the rain.”

Creator's Notes

By Tyson Forbes, Markell Kiefer & Sam Elmore

The writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau have held an important place in American Literature for over 150 years. As artists and citizens we have referenced their words in order to find answers to burning questions on how to live our lives more deeply and responsibly in this world. Emerson and Thoreau were both radicals of their time, calling on their peers to think for themselves and to be agents of change. We believe their words and ideas are as necessary now as they were then.

In today's world it is easy to become estranged from our natural environment and we feel that humankind must reconnect with nature in order to survive. As oil spills into our oceans, as we race through our lives, as we look further and further outside ourselves for the answers, it is our hope that *Nature* can be a catalyst for our collective healing.

More than anything, we hope that this play will inspire you to consider a very simple question: *what is your relationship with nature?*

Musical Notes

By Dick Hensold

Although most of the music in *Nature* has been composed for the play, the new music is largely modeled on music that was current in New England in the 1840's. Some of the choral music, for instance, is based on shaped-note music, which had its origins in late-18th-century New England, and was still popular there as late as the 1850's. Other singing is based on the old traditional sea-shanties or on New England contra dance music.

Also heard in the play is some authentic New England contra dance music, which is still played today for dancing as it was in colonial times. Other pieces of period music in the show include Abraham Wood's terse funeral song "Brevity" (Man, born of woman...) from 1800, and all the vocal music in the preshow, which includes not only the shaped-note hymns "New Jerusalem", "The Promised Land", and "The Traveller", but Henry Thoreau's all-time favorite song, "Tom Bowling."

Historical Context

By Andrew Schelling

When Ralph Waldo Emerson was approached by Henry David Thoreau in 1837, the thirty-four year old Emerson was already a renowned lecturer, writer, and professor. Thoreau was just twenty, a college graduate, and was training himself as a naturalist in the woods around Concord, Massachusetts, where both men lived. Concord shortly became the United States' intellectual center, the home of the Transcendentalists. Its residents included Bronson Alcott (father of Louisa May), the feminist Margaret Fuller, and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

From our contemporary point of view, the spiritual heart of Concord was the friendship of Emerson and Thoreau. The men had very different temperaments—Thoreau an outdoorsman in rough clothes, Emerson a former minister. What joined them was a conviction that nature, not religion, would provide humans with spiritual insight, love, and the visions for art. Both abhorred slavery, mindless commercialism, conventional thought, and found solace in wilderness. Their quest was the origin of an American tradition built on nature and poetry.

Thoreau lived for two years on land owned by Emerson at Walden Pond. When Emerson departed for a European trip he invited Thoreau to live in his house, leaving the younger man with his wife, Lydian, and two children. On Emerson's return, the men had a row, and their friendship ended. Was it temperament? Rivalry over Lydian's affections? For years they went their own ways, each a troubled companion of nature. Their friendship enjoyed an ironic recovery when Thoreau died and Emerson delivered the eulogy at his grave.

The Company and our favorite places

Tyson Forbes *Executive Artistic Producer/Emerson*
Lackeys Bay

Markell Kiefer *Creative Producer/Director*
Shambhala Mountain Center

Samuel Elmore *Creative Producer/Thoreau*
Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts

Andrew Schelling *Writer*
Kippen

Dick Hensold *Music Director*
The Isle of Harris

Christine Richardson *Costume Designer*
The Three Sisters over Phalarope Lake

Sarah Radick *Stage Manager*
Stone Arch Bridge

Shannon Cristie *Movement Consultant*
Hawaii

Chris Lutter *Carpenter*

North Woods, Quetico Park, Ontario

Julian McFall *Carpenter*

Skawquiltz River, Bella Coola, British Colombia

Jon Ferguson *Advisor*

St. Ives, England

Maggie Mckenna *Production Assistant*

Atop Mountains, alongside Bodies of Water

Peter Schmitz *Advisor*

The place of Breath

Phong Tran *Designer/Technical Support*

Where the Snow Falls

Jody Bee *Ensemble*

The Black Hills of South Dakota

The Company (cont'd)

Sky Brooks *Ensemble/Mary Moody*

Where Woods meets Fields meets Lake

Sarah Brown *Ensemble*

Lake Mille Lacs

Steve Herzog *Ensemble*

Any Bridge over the Mississippi River

Zoe Lien *Ensemble/Ellen Emerson*

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sebastian Lien *Jack of all Trades*

Naushon Island

Elena Orsak *Musician*

Beside the Ocean

Ty Otis *Musician/Carpenter*

Cobertson's Springs, Wisconsin

Steve Paananen *Ensemble*

In the Middle of a Jog

Lauren Sat Rattan *Ensemble/Lydian*

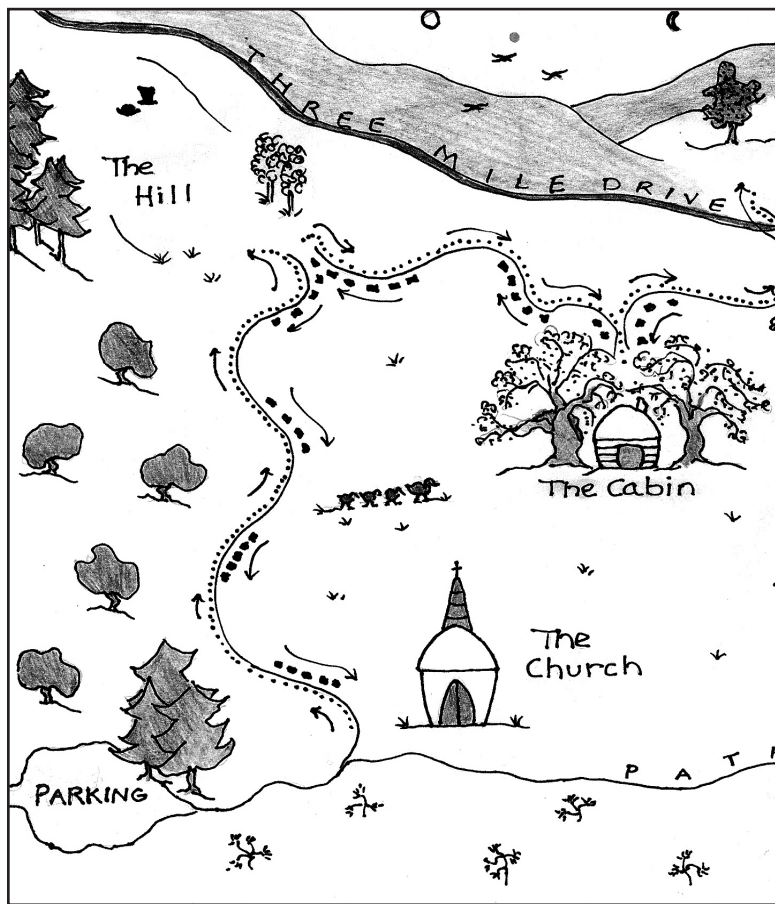
Gunnison, Colorado

Dustin Suggs *Ensemble*

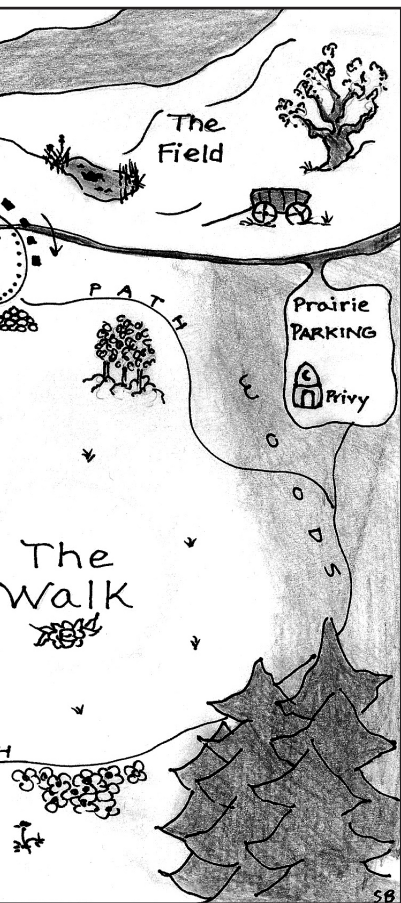
Big Trout and Whitefish Lake

Max Wanderman *Ensemble*

Sjölunden



Artwork by Sky Brooks



What is a Walking Play?

A walking play takes its audience on a scene-by-scene journey through nature, harmonizing bodies, hearts, and minds with the simple pleasure of taking a walk.

The Map

The Field Journal

This little book invites you to explore your relationship with Nature during the performance and beyond. You are welcome to use it to take notes as Emerson and Thoreau did throughout their lives. The questions that follow are optional guides for your own reflection.

We would like to request your feedback on the final page, which is perforated for your convenience. Please turn in the feedback page at *Nature's* conclusion to help improve the play and its Field Journal. Thank you for joining us and enjoy the walking play experience.

TigerLion Arts

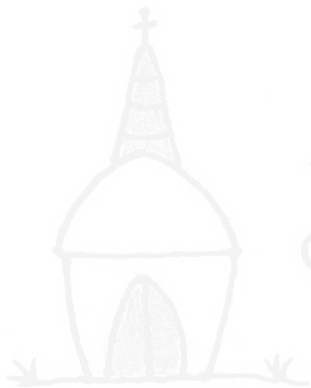
The Church



What is your relationship with Nature?



The Cabin



The Church

The Hill



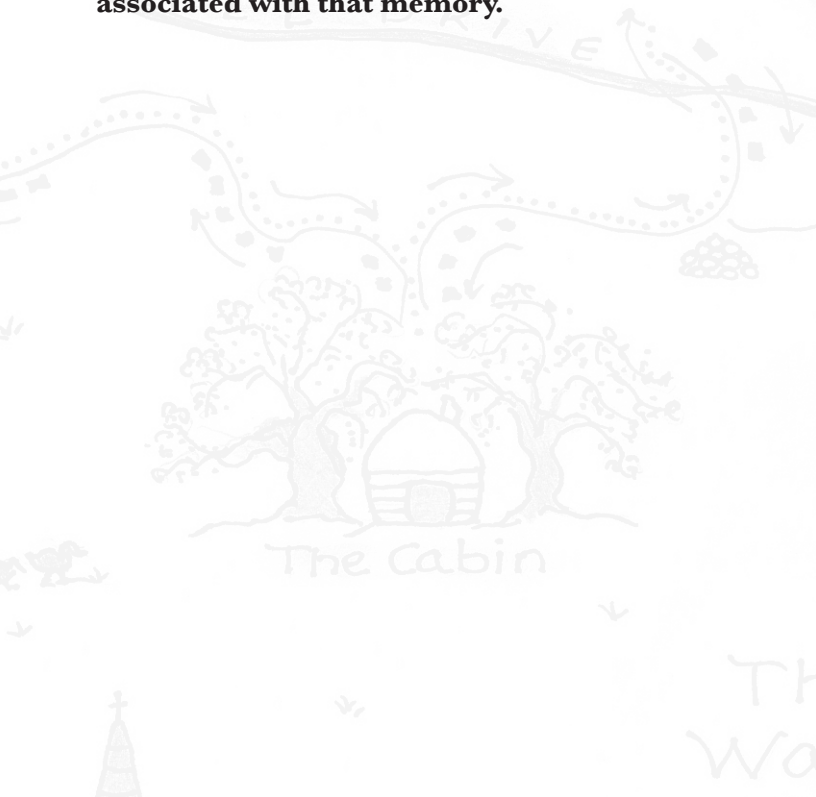
**Open your senses to all that surrounds you
as you walk. What do you see, hear, taste,
touch and smell?**



The Cabin



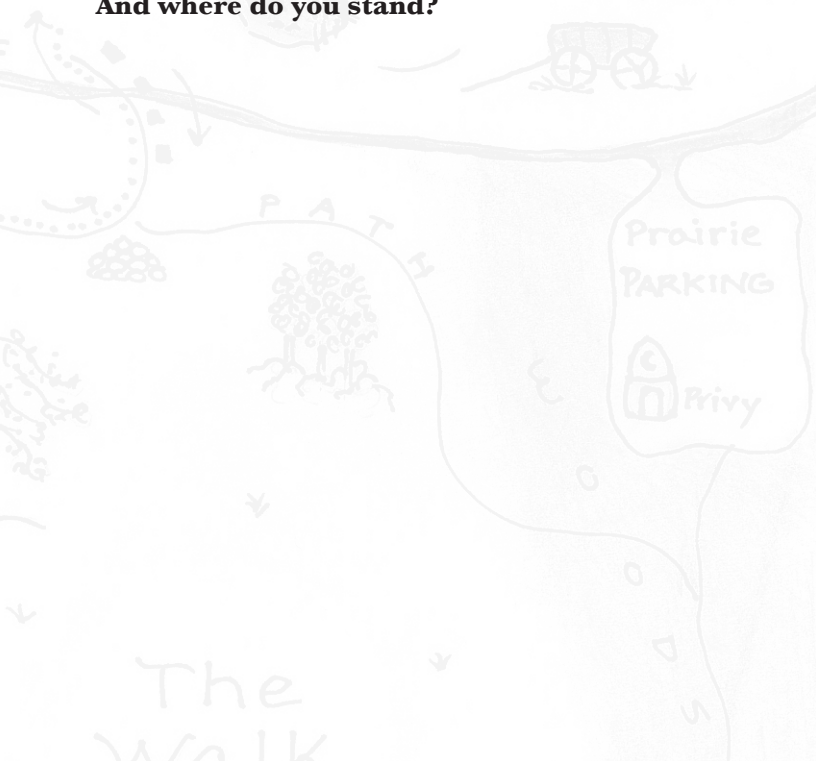
Recall a time you experienced solitude in Nature. Draw or write images or words associated with that memory.



The Field



Emerson and Thoreau debated the issue of progress. What value do you find in each of their positions? How relevant is their debate today? And where do you stand?



Without You, We are Nothing

A special thank you to University of Minnesota's Center for Spirituality & Healing, Life Science Foundation, Marbrook Foundation, Julie D. Andrus, Lawrance Black, Con & Marney Brooks, Con & Carol Brooks, Markell Brooks, Stephen B. Brooks, Sarah F. Colt, John & Sage Cowles, Shannon Cristie, Mary Lee Dayton, Phil Deering, Bee & Bob Elmore, Birdie Emerson, Daniel C. Emerson, Mary Emerson, Raymond & Jen Emerson, Sharon Franquemont, Thomas & Betsy Kiefer, Katherine Kiefer, Pamela & Marty Krasney, Doug Lange, Diane Lev, Sasha Lien, Diana Macphail, Rebecca & David Mills, Nancy Nelson, Sally & George Pillsbury, Lawrason & Patricia Riggs, Peter & Janet Riggs, Raymond & Lorna Riggs, Steve & Francie Riggs, Elly Sturgis, Nina Utne, Carol White, John Zacherl, Charles & Julie Zelle, and all our volunteers!

To support Nature

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to TigerLion Arts, 730 2nd Avenue South, Suite 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55402, or contribute on-line by visiting **www.tigerlion.org/nature** Thank you for supporting our endeavors!

Feedback for Nature

What did you enjoy most about *Nature*?

How can we improve the experience?

**Did you use your field journal, and if so,
how can we improve it?**

**Please use the other side for any other
comments. Thank you for taking the time to
give us feedback.**

