

The monologues included in *The Newton Project* were created for actors to use specifically for theater auditions or classroom scene and character study. Although independent speeches, each monologue pays tribute to a character by the name of Newton, a character (or some other entity) unseen by the audience and imagined by the actor. Admittedly, I have taken the name and a few biographical references of this “unseen” character from the celebrated physicist Sir Isaac Newton, but to connect these monologues to the science of theoretical physics would take an extreme act of imagination. It is not, however, too much of a stretch to believe that Newton’s laws of motion also apply to the drama. We know that drama is action. A character, in a state of equilibrium (or rest), is compelled to change by the actions (or the force) of another character. The character’s life becomes the acceleration of unwanted or unexpected events—a journey—which has the power to transport the character as well as the actor and audience from one curious place to another. My “journey” in writing these monologues received its encouragement from family and friends, while tonight’s performance is the result of great energy and the special talents of James Gross and Laura Connors, my actors, and student assistants. *The Newton Project* is about performance and the actor, and I have asked the actor whom I most admire, Jamie Watson, to comment on tonight’s performance.

Dwight Watson

During an audition, actors have only a few minutes to tell a story—to create a connection before the actual or imagined “next” is shouted. The performer seizes this momentary opportunity to combine craft and artistry in order to leave a lasting impression.

Tonight you will not experience a conventional theater story; you will not witness a play with fully developed characters and a story with beginning, climax, and resolution. There will be no satisfying catharsis; however, *The Newton Project* provides each actor with a brief encounter, the monologue, and a challenge to employ his or her theatrical resources to engage each member of the audience. We invite you to share the actor’s experience.

Jamie Watson