



2023 FASPE Dinner and Awards for Ethical Leadership Acceptance Speech by Dr. Shannon Joyce Prince, Distinguished Fellow Honoree

Thank you, Thorsten, for your generous remarks. Thank you to FASPE for this award – I’m deeply humbled to be honored by a community I so cherish. And thank all of you who are here tonight for supporting FASPE.

Our theme this evening is the “art” of ethical leadership, and, as a writer, when I think about “art,” I think about stories. I think about the story of minority suffering desperate conditions in the place to which it had been forcibly relocated. When one day, this community decided to engage in an armed uprising that was put down, the survivors were confined in a concentration camp or put directly to death. I am talking about Jews in the Warsaw ghetto under Furrher Hitler.

And I am talking about the Dakota on Minnesota reservation land under President Lincoln.

I think about the story of how the Cherokee people tried, in vain, to avoid the United States’ genocide of Native Americans by assimilating. They became known as one of the Five Civilized Tribes. A reason they were considered civilized was because they demonstrated that they were modern businesspeople – and they did that by developing a plantation economy and enslaving Black people.

Reflecting on these stories, we might wonder why wasn’t President – and Attorney -- Lincoln’s emancipatory heroism mutually exclusive with him being a genocidal villain. Why did the Cherokee Nation’s own experience of genocide make the oppression of another people seem unavoidable rather than unthinkable?

What FASPE taught me is that our professionalism, our pain, even our heroism don’t prevent us from being perpetrators – rather, sometimes they lead us to be, because the moment we think we’re inherently incapable of evil, we’ve rendered ourselves vulnerable to committing it. And FASPE teaches this lesson by showing Fellows the atrocities committed by people like us, with resumes like ours. And it makes those lessons unforgettable by taking us to the places where those people had their downfalls, which are not dramatic supervillain lairs but conference rooms and administrative buildings like the ones in which we spend our days. At FASPE, we don’t study perpetrators so we won’t be like them. We study perpetrators because we recognize that we already are like them: educated, expert, privileged. We’re promising. We’re dangerous. We are so powerful even our idleness has an impact.

Thankfully, we have been equipped and empowered by the morals that come only from cautionary tales, by the lessons you can't learn at Anne Frank House – only at Auschwitz. Thank you Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics.

2023 FASPE Dinner and Awards for Ethical Leadership
Acceptance Speech by Eamon Duffy, MD
On behalf of Posthumous Honoree Thomas P. Duffy, MD

Thank you all for this wonderful award and for honoring my dad. Thank you to David Goldman, Director Wagner, and Dr. Khullar for your kind and inspiring words. My dad so strongly cherished his work with FASPE and with all of you, and I know he is looking down, overjoyed that we are all here together tonight. I think his participation in FASPE epitomized some of the questions that he dedicated so much of his life to answering: First, what is the moral responsibility of a physician? And more importantly, are we meeting that responsibility? To answer those questions, he not only studied medicine and ethics, but he also studied and, in some cases, lived, the history of medicine. From the segregated wards of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the early 1960s to the gene therapies being administered to patients with leukemia on the recently named Duffy Service at Yale New Haven, his career covered a remarkable period of evolution in medicine. And the whole time, he was one of the few who always asked – are we doing it right?

His work with FASPE sparked his interest in the influence of German medical education on American medicine. He studied how German pedagogy shaped the creation of modern medicine, and how, through both physician action and inaction during the Holocaust, that same pedagogy contributed to what he described as the profession's deepest stain. He used this work as a prism through which to view present-day medicine and to warn that physicians must never lose sight of their primary responsibility: the protection and care of their patients.

Several years ago, my dad sent me a talk he once gave to the returning FASPE Fellows, and I thought it would be fitting to close by reading some of his remarks:

“Knowledge and memory of the Holocaust should serve as powerful bulwarks against any unraveling of professional standards in the medical profession. You students have returned, we all return, from such an experience with a visceral repulsion for what has been witnessed. The question of forgiveness is not possible, but the experience will color and inform your lives in medicine and the lives of those whom you instruct in handing on the torch to others. You will speak up when transgressions in professional conduct occur and when injustices threaten the well-being of your patients. You will not be intimidated and acquiesce to superiors who command you to perform immoral acts. You will strive to achieve your patients' best interests which should encompass addressing the circumstances of their lives and the world in which they live. You will be moral leaders fueled by the experience which the Auschwitz project has provided. This will remain the grand illumination created by the hellish flames of the Holocaust.”

Thank you again for this award, and for giving me and my family the opportunity to celebrate this wonderful evening with all of you.

2023 FASPE Dinner and Awards for Ethical Leadership
Acceptance Speech by Amanda Gronich of Tectonic Theater Project

Thank you, David, for kvelling for us in that generous introduction. And thank you to the FASPE board of directors, fellows, faculty, and the dinner committee for this incredible honor. I am so deeply moved to stand here in front of this amazing room. Really, you should see yourselves.

And now, a quick story. Our theater community is very, very small. So it's not surprising that our play's connection to FASPE happened early and by only one degree of separation.

Tectonic's producer, Matt Joslyn, was talking about the play with one of our core supporters who is also a Broadway producer and here this evening. And this producer said, "You know...Debbie Bisno, another producer... has a husband (stay with me here everybody) and Debbie's husband started an organization called FASPE. It links ethics and Auschwitz. Maybe you should talk to him."

So...Matt got a meeting with David Goldman. And in that meeting, they discovered they are both from Ohio...and that Matt once lived on the same street in Mansfield, Ohio where David grew up. Now, okay...for the record, in scriptwriting, this is something you do NOT do. *I'm sorry, the same street?* No, no, no. *Soooo on the nose.*

But...sometimes, in life, and in this very, very small world, there is kismet. Or *B'shert*. And while *I* have no connections to Ohio, Matt and I did manage to track down David at the Yale Club. And by the end of a fascinating lunch, I was completely hooked.

The more I delved into this extraordinary organization, the more it became clear to me that FASPE's work - and its exceptional fellows - can steer the course of history. The notion that this play project of ours might join forces with FASPE was truly thrilling.

Thanks to FASPE, our creative process was launched in a whole new way. Suddenly we were engaging with some of the most important scholars and ethicists in the world. People like David Marwell and Thorsten Wagner, Marc Mercurio, Anthony Appiah. Rachel Century. Father Stephen Bell. I could go on.

David & Thorsten helped us plan a research trip to Germany and Poland. There we met with Pawel Sawicki, the head of the press office at the Auschwitz Birkenau State Museum. *I mean - seriously - is there anyone David and FASPE don't know?*

So, for us...as we continued to write, and to write, and to...write...really, *writing plays takes a long time*...David and the FASPE family never wavered in their support.

They were in the front row at readings, they hosted us at FASPE board meetings, and connected us to the German Consulate. They opened so many doors. But, most importantly - they pushed us as artists to dig deeper and deeper into these photographs, into the story that they told - and to look through the lens of ethics as we wrote. As an artist, I cannot begin to tell you how rare that kind of encouragement is. Really. That kind of faith is a gift.

This unforgettable journey has been one of the great highlights and honors of my career. I often found myself asking, what would FASPE say? And I plan to keep asking that question forever.

Thank you, David, and thank you to everyone at FASPE. We cannot wait to share with you – soon, on a very storied and special stage – all that has come of this incredible partnership.

2023 FASPE Dinner and Awards for Ethical Leadership
Acceptance Speech by Moisés Kaufman of Tectonic Theater Project

David. Thorsten. Debbie. FASPE board. Faculty, staff - Mia & Rebecca & the entire team. Thank you. I am overwhelmed.

I just want to add to what Amanda said, something a bit personal. I also want to talk about David Goldman, and what he has meant to me in the process of writing and directing the play.

When David came to visit our workshop in Hudson, New York it was the first time I heard him say, "I don't get it." We heard that a lot. And also, "No. Not right." So this is a man who doesn't pull punches.

This is a man on a mission.

And it's a gorgeous mission. That we are all here tonight - in the company of such extraordinary honorees & fellows, all ethical activists - is a testament to that: we all believe deeply in the mission of FASPE.

From the first moment we met, David pushed Tectonic to be daring. To go to the darkest, most frightening places in this work. Not only has FASPE been our champion through the development process - every member of the organization has also been our thought partner - on the page - and also on the stage curating and leading post-show conversations to help audiences who we found needed to talk about their experience of seeing the play and grappling with all its complexities.

David, do you remember that gorgeous dinner we had with all of those incredible minds around the table together - asking some of the most challenging questions about humanity? And - do you remember our text messages when I was in Auschwitz doing research? The conversations we had every day about what I was experiencing... both as an artist, a leader - and as a Jew.

And do you remember our opening night at the La Jolla Playhouse in 2022. When you looked at me and Amanda with an acknowledgment that we had created something powerful together? At long last, you did get it.

I'll never forget these moments. They are on every page of the play.

Here There Are Blueberries and FASPE are forever connected. (Tectonic is a FASPIAN and FASPE is a Thespian) Tectonic cannot wait to share our production

with audiences in [New York City at NYTW in spring](#), and around the country, and the world. With FASPE by our side.

From me and Amanda, and our two key collaborators, our dramaturg, Amy Marie Seidel, and our creative producer, Matt Joslyn - we thank you for this honor.

2023 FASPE Dinner and Awards for Ethical Leadership
Remarks by David Goldman, FASPE Chairman

I believe in the magic of words. Sometimes the humor, sometimes the potential for multiple interpretations, often the fear of misunderstanding. But, as always, the potential clarity that they offer; and, the burden of responsibility in the use of words—as we use them to communicate what we believe and what we feel.

Before I present our final awards to two true masters of words, I want to talk about words—as we are horrified and consumed by so much suffering, in Ukraine, which we must not forget, and in Israel, in Gaza, on the West Bank; by surging Islamophobia, antisemitism and other hatred towards groups based solely on their systems of belief; and by expanding cycles of violence and vitriol.

We communicate not just through the meaning of words. We communicate by intonation and decibel level. And, we communicate by our choice of words, not merely their meaning, but also their electricity, their power, and their potential to enflame.

After World War II, there were a number of Germans who decided to abandon the German language. They “converted” to Esperanto. Why? Because, in their view, German—the language of Goethe and Schiller—had been polluted by the corrupt euphemisms and the implicit meanings ascribed by the Nazis to ordinary benign words.

As I think about the world today and tonight’s celebration of those who bring *humanity* to us, I propose that we pause to consider two words:

- I was searching for a way to think about where we are today in a conversation with a friend, and he used the word “**solipsism**.” Obviously, I had to rush to my phone, hoping that he wouldn’t notice. A simple definition: “*The belief that only one’s mind exists, and no one else’s.*” Basically, all that matters is what I think; nothing else. Others’ beliefs don’t even exist.
- The second word: **empathy**. It is a core FASPE value. It is a theme that we believe is an integral component of professionalism. It is what drove Tom Duffy to be the truly unique doctor and educator that he was. It is embodied in Shannon Prince’s outstanding work and writing. And, empathy is what is at the heart of Moisés Kaufman and Amanda Gronich’s artistry.

I bring these two words to you as I struggle to reconcile my own emotions—my anger and fear—with the optimism and inspiration that I take from tonight’s honorees, from our growing family of Alumni, the ethical activists.

Solipsism is playing out with terrifying results. A tragic choice to diminish, and to deny, others' beliefs, especially as we too often retreat to the comfort of our own echo chambers. And, there is an intentional lack of empathy—in how we got to this point, in how we are reacting, in the inflammatory words we choose.

I am not suggesting that horrific acts committed by perpetrators can ever be excused or rationalized. I am also not ignoring that, for those on the ground, what is occurring in Gaza and inside of Israel, seems existential. I am suggesting, however, that *the denial of the existence of the other—solipsism—allows the perpetrators to dictate the discourse, to drive the agenda.*

We must expect better from those whom we look to for leadership. We must expect better from ourselves. Here is George Orwell speaking about language: “*But, if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought, a bad usage can spread..even among people who should and do know better.*”

FASPE's mission is ethical leadership. Please, lead by rejecting solipsism, by choosing to lead the discourse with empathy. We ask our Fellows to keep this always top of mind. And, speak the truth. It is the *art* in ethical leadership.