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CREATING A DEVISED THEATRICAL PIECE TO TRAVEL TO THE EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL Cecelia Otto (Robert Scott Smith) Department of Theatre

Can you remember every day of your life? There are 12 known people in the world who are able to remember the events of any given date with stunningly accurate detail. Come experience the power of the brain.

This project consisted of months of academic and creative research which culminated in the creation of a theatrical performance piece entitled, Hyperthymesia. The purpose of creating this piece was to perform at the 2017 Edinburgh International Fringe Festival in Scotland. The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is the oldest and largest fringe festival in the world, welcoming almost 28,000 performers from 49 different countries to perform for over 2 million audience members. Unlike many fringe festivals in the United States, the Edinburgh Fringe allows anyone who is able to secure a venue to perform at the festival.

Hyperthymesia is a condition discovered in the past 10 years in which a person can remember each day of his or her life, most often starting with puberty. This performance piece explored what life would be like from the perspective of someone who lives with Hyperthymesia. Much of the dialogue performed was taken directly from interviews with the first twelve people to identify with this ability. Sound, movement, and text were combined to portray the memories which these people relive vividly, and consistently.

The secret to a happy life isn't the ability to remember, it's the ability to forget.

