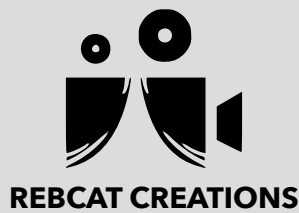


THE REBCAT COLLECTIVE

*staging stories for
modern times*



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ISSUE IV

APRIL 2021

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

**from: *Meditations Divine and Moral* (1664)
Anne Bradstreet**

A Note from our Co-founder



@rebcatacreations



[www.linkedin.com
/company/rebcata/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rebcata/)

Welcome to the April Edition of The Rebcate Collective Magazine: a platform for emerging creative talent to tell their unique stories.

In six months, we have written, performed and produced two original and critically acclaimed plays, produced four editions of The Rebcate Collective, and are now offering professional workshops.

Rebate Creations is an international, not for profit organisation based in London and Milan. We connect people, cultures and organisations through the medium of storytelling.

We work with creative people who tell their stories and express their experience of life in our modern times.

We offer stimulating, inspiring, and sometimes provocative content from a diverse range of international artists, writers, photographers, musicians, poets, and healers.

If you would like to be part of the Rebcate Collective, get in touch via our social media platforms or email

showtime@rebatecreations.com



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The New Normal

The Emotional Truth of Our Times



A RebCat Creations
Online Production
by
Catherine & Rebecca
Dixon




Purchase a recording:

rebcatcreations.ticketspice.com/the-new-normal



20/21
March 2021
19:00 GMT

 On the evenings of the 20th and 21st of March, RebCat Creations presented a global audience with Catherine and Rebecca Dixon's online production, The New Normal, which was a sequel to their December 2020 production of The Truth Serum.

The New Normal is a play about friendship, re-birth and hope. It exposes the rawness of mental and emotional burnout, the despair caused by job loss, lack of direction and mistrust in a post-truth society. Expect strong characterisation, unusual plots twists, poignant drama, and humour.

The play received five star reviews from LouReviews, Theatres Online, the Audience Club and was featured in La Liberta (reviews are available to read on the RebCat Creations website), and excellent audience feedback. Here is a sample of that feedback:

“Brilliant sequel, so true to what is going on in the world.”

“As an audience member you can feel a real connection with people from all over the world.”

“All of the actors had great connection and intimacy.”

“Looking forward to the next one!”

“I really enjoyed the Q&A after the performance”

Following the outstanding performances from a cast hailing from London, Bath, Milan, New York and Rotterdam, The New Normal has left us asking, “what’s next?”

We have inspiring projects in the making, so please look out for announcements in the forth coming editions.

Recordings of the live performance are still available at

(rebcatcreations.com)

Caesura

By Michael Henry

My friends teased me saying this was my “Eat, Pray, Love” moment but I wasn’t flying around the world to find myself. I realised (ok, with a little help from my therapist) that it must come from within and I had no intention of moving. New York City was home and there was nowhere else I wanted to be. I began my memoir about my reinvention tour with a trick I learned from my creative writing professor in college, write as if you're telling an old friend a story.

The chapters from past lives were writing themselves and now I needed to forge ahead. I quit my gruelling job at a magazine and went to work in the environmental causes industry, something I am passionate about. I took a position in marketing for a sustainability company that turns plant waste into vegan leather and bioplastics. I dumped unhealthy friendships. Practiced meditation. Enrolled in yoga and pilates. Jogged two miles every day. Went to the gym and sought out the services of a Reiki Master.

I’d go down to the west village and hang around coffee shops surrounded by the energy of other writers who feverishly typed away. I’d see artists and producers coming and going. I even had a Sarah Jessica Parker sighting for good measure.

I went to concerts, Broadway shows, and exhibits at the finest cultural institutions. Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol, Matisse, Monet, or a Picasso were moments away.



Source: New York Times

You should not be fooled. This excitement wasn't all puppy dogs. With the outpouring of creativity, there is a price. I dislike crowds and sitting in theatre seats like a canned sardine. Overly enthusiastic Broadway actors that wait tables make me nuts, lines everywhere you go, pigeons, smelly yoga studios, the constant hurry, obliviousness as if all the world wears earbuds and the unbearable traffic of New York City.

And just like that, it stopped as if the earth stood still. Even a walk to get fresh air was seemingly dangerous. There was complete silence except for birdsong in the noisiest city in the world. My Moleskine notebooks full of observations and inspirations withered, stained with coffee, sentences crossed out, pages of used materials all typed up.



Now one year later, Spring returns. Tulips decorate streetside planters, outside cafes that have survived are slowly welcoming patrons and the chatter is coming back. Coffee shops are once again packed with writers and the cliches I once disdained are back, but this time I embrace them. Jazz club bands have found new venues on street corners. Opera singers perform on the doorsteps of brownstones. There are sidewalk drag shows. Former empty storefronts are now pop-up shops.

I've learned to accept with loving kindness the things I did not appreciate and accept with loving gratitude those I did. All I can do is marvel that my muse, New York City, is showing signs of life like a bear coming out of hibernation, after a long cold winter.



My notebook is open and I've broken through my writer's block and now my book has taken another direction - an arc I could never have imagined.

So hello, old friend, I really have a story to tell you.

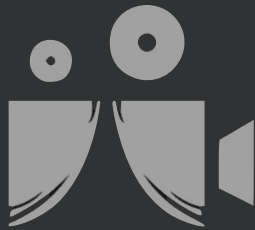
Michael Henry is a former correspondent for *People Magazine*, as well as, the former Miami Editor for *In Touch Weekly*. He was a member of *US Weekly's* Fashion Police and has been blogging for the *Huffington Post* since 2009. He has had television appearances on *HuffPost Live*, *CNN*, *NBC*, *Fox*, *Deco Drive*, and *VH-1*.

Currently, he is the Chief Marketing Officer at Nova Milan, a vegan leather company, and consults on various blockchain and cryptocurrency projects.

You can find excerpts from his book on michaelhenrywriter.com.

THE REBCAT WORKSHOPS SERIES

*Own and tell your
story, in your way.*



Unless we take charge of our story, other people will tell it for us. That's why we developed The Storytelling Series: to bring out the innate storyteller within and help people take control of their own narrative.

Our workshops will show you how to:

- develop a powerful voice,
- communicate a unique and compelling message,
- understand and connect with your audience.

No matter who you are, you can learn how to tell your story in the way you intend.

Our workshops are original, practical, dynamic, fun and highly effective. Putting on successful online plays has given us unique insight and experience to help you stage your own story.

We offer four types of story telling workshops.

1/ Story Telling For Individuals

Are you interested in increasing your self esteem and confidence as a speaker? Our latest workshop, "Storytelling for Individuals & Small Groups", is perfect for people who want to improve their presentation and communication skills for a career or life change. Become your most powerful and confident self.

2/ Story Telling for Educators

As author Terry Tempest Williams says, storytelling is the oldest form of education. It's what brings the classroom alive and transforms learning into a dynamic and engaging process.

Did you know that in addition to engaging students, storytelling improves retention and increases their connection to the material? Put that way, how could we not incorporate such a powerful tool into the classroom?

3/ Story Telling for Teams

If you work on a team, you know how challenging it can sometimes be to establish a positive team dynamic; one of collaboration and trust. But once everyone understands their roles and responsibilities and communicates openly, that's when the star performances happen!

Our new workshop for business owners, heads of departments, and team leaders or players helps empower innovation and adaptive thinking, creating a common narrative for the team and increasing their performance under pressure.

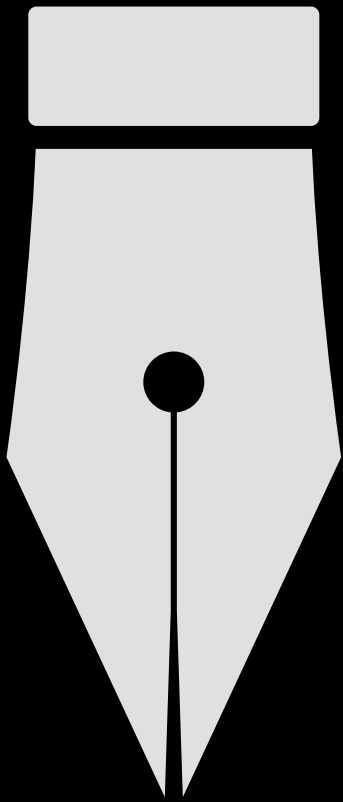
4/ Story Telling for Businesses

As a business or organisation, it's important to create a coherent narrative about your business and products. Without it, your audience will fill in their own ideas and you lose power over your identity.

That's why we created the "Storytelling for Business/Organisations" workshop, so you can learn how to increase engagement with customers and stake holders, and improve the clarity and quality of your touch points with them. Take your communications strategy to the next level.

For more information about the workshops please contact Cathy at:

cathyrebc@gmail.com

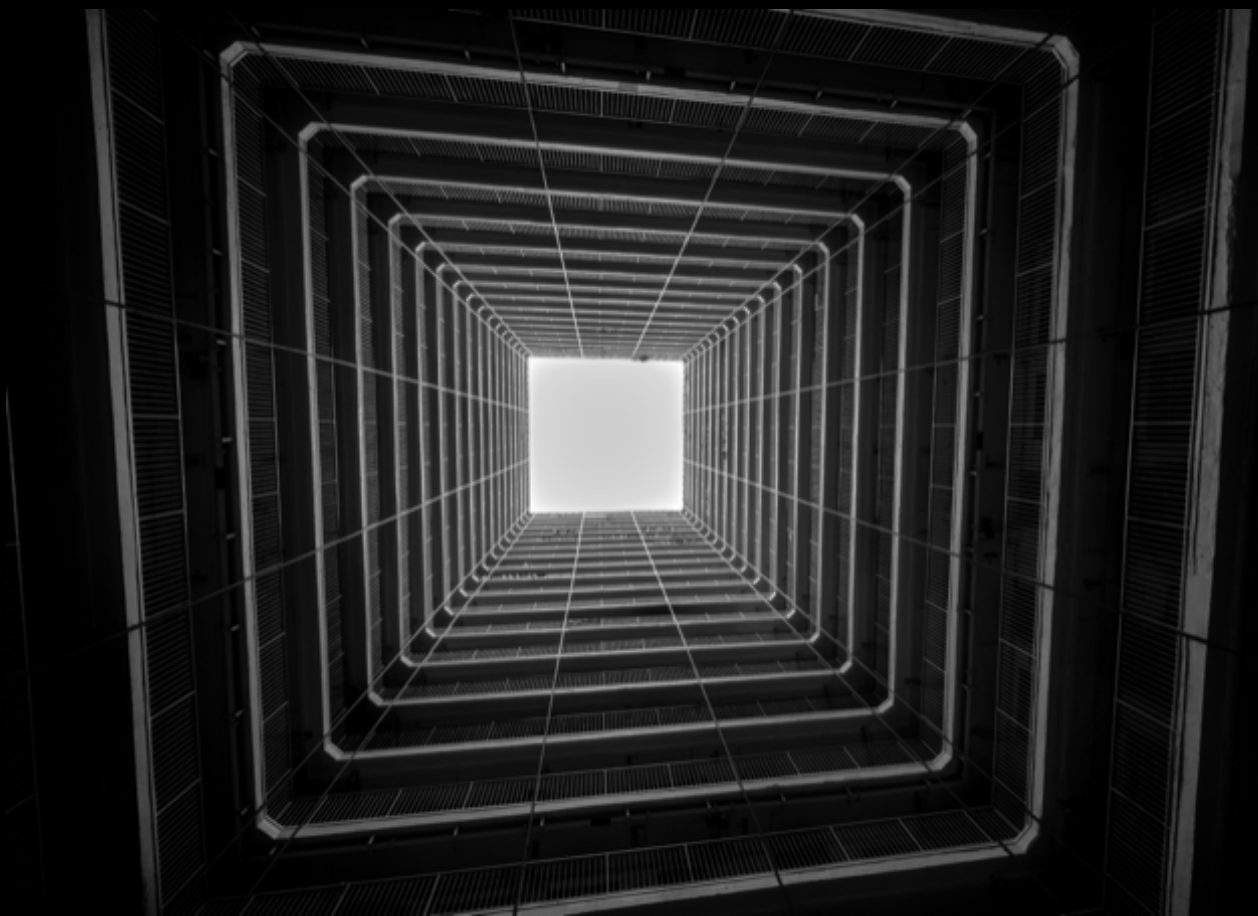


Guest Creative

Ben Dixon

During my down time I walk around the city a lot more slowly as I'm not in a rush. I tend to take my time, dawdle and wait to see what happens. As a result I 'see' more.

April 2021





Like many, the restriction in travel has actually been an enabler. During my down time I walk around the city a lot more slowly as I'm not in a rush. I tend to take my time, dawdle and wait to see what happens. As a result I 'see' more. It has also enabled me to anticipate things and increase my patience and persistence levels.





I'm not sure I have a style as such but I do like a good background -
I love walls! With background chosen I can wait to see what
happens and then click if I like what I see. I have definitely become
more open to new ideas, settings and concepts.





I'm currently working on a commission for a panoramic of a large containership with a HK background. This is proving to be quite a challenge as I need to track when the big 400m container ships come in, get the time of day right for the light (and get the right day!) and find the right location-its going to take some time.

It's hard to be original in photography but I do like urban street scenes and trying to create a good urbanscape. I want people to see what I see, what I experience and what I feel at any given moment.



It's hard to give advice as I don't really follow much myself. However this is old advice: don't be without a camera (iPhone great too) the best camera is the one you have with you and be fussy with the end result-it's good to try and copy shots and images you like and then put your spin on it. Be prepared to share and get constructive balanced feedback

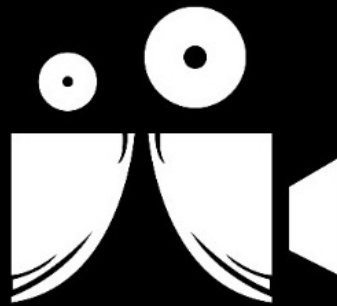
To see more of Ben's work:



Ben Dixon

bidleybid.wixsite.com/bendixonphotography

Instagram: 2012bidsters68



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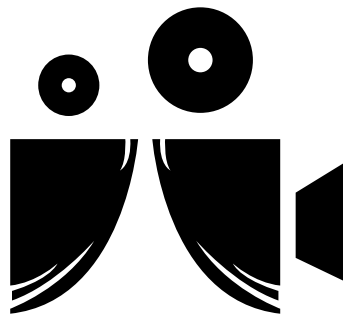


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Are you an actor, writer, backstage
enthusiast or creative interested in
collaborating with a brand new
medium?

Contact RebCat Creations on:
showtime@rebcatcreations.com

rebcatcreations.com



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STAGING STORIES FOR MODERN TIMES

Magazine by Otto Terrell
Creative Director