

JUDGEMENT CALL

When your beliefs are challenged, which side will you take? During your visit to see *A Bright New Boise*, examine moments in life when a course of action may not be as clear or decisive to you as you may have once thought. Through a number of hobby-inspired tasks: weigh your thoughts and express your beliefs; compare your choices to those of other audience members; create a community craft in the process!

Below are the final results of the craft stations with reflections from some of the *A Bright New Boise* cast and Woolly team:



In Woolly's upper lobby, we invited you to decide what prospect frightened you the most: the construction of more big box stores or more mega churches. You were asked to let your voice be heard by gluing a Popsicle stick to the side of the sculpture that you were most unnerved by. Clockwise: week 1, week 2, week 3, week 4, and week 5.

“Once the Popsicle sculpture began to change shape, it evolved pretty drastically from week to week. I watched as people began to connect both sides of the sculpture together, noting the distinct similarities between big box stores and mega churches and not being able to choose one option over another. I also watched as these sculptures gradually became unwieldy monsters (some sticks with face drawings on it!) that wobbled back and forth in the breeze of the theatre's lobby. Our audiences took time to sign their name and make their mark on this station, which to me indicates a comfort of choosing what they truly believe in—an act which should be commended.”

—Melanie Harker, Connectivity Assistant



At the bead craft station in Woolly's lower lobby, you were asked to indicate which underlying principle about God you will teach your children, by dropping a color-coded bead into a large, clear vase. Yellow = "God is all of us"; Green = "God is all around us"; White = "God is a part of us"; Orange = "God is unknowable to us"; Red = "God is made by us."

"Asking audiences to engage publicly with a God-centric question triggered a whole lot of lively conversations between couples, families, and friends. It even prompted an unexpected conversation between playwright Sam Hunter and me before one of the first performances. It was equally fascinating to watch the popularity of various colors fluctuate from performance to performance. In the end, Woolly audiences dropped significantly more red beads into the vase than any other color. Though, it's worthwhile to note that red beads only represent about 35% of the total beads that were dropped into the vase."

—John M. Baker, Production Dramaturg on ***A Bright New Boise***



At the Styrofoam wreath in Woolly's lower lobby, you were asked to decide which topic you refuse to discuss in the workplace—spirituality sexuality morality, or the economy—by sticking a color-coded tack to the wreath. Red = "Spirituality"; Blue = "Spirituality"; Green = "The Economy"; Yellow = "Morality."

"And the winner is... a tie between spirituality and sexuality! At first I thought it was sexuality all the way, but then I realized that might be because red stands out more than the other colors. As I continued to gaze at the wreath, I realized that blue also stands out. These two colors—red and blue—were the most represented on this wreath. This makes sense to me, since both subjects are of a hush-hush quality, and I think it has something to do with our fear of revealing too much of the personal life in the professional existence. Both subjects, in their own respects, are incredibly personal and, most importantly, fodder for judgment. When we get insight into an aspect or a fetish or a belief of someone and BOOM! We've got their number, we've pegged them into whatever category we see fit so we can feel more confident in ourselves. So, in order to be free from the wrong side of the firing squad that is loaded up with presumption and gossip, we have an immense thirst for a large amount of anonymity in the workplace in order not to be scapegoated, placed, judged. So we avoid these two very 'under-belly,' 'revealing' subjects in the 9 to 5 realm of our society."

—Kimberly Gilbert, Woolly Company Member & Anna in *A Bright New Boise*



At the tree in Woolly's lower lobby, you were asked to decide what fuels your passion by tying a color-coded piece of ribbon to the tree. Green = "My Family"; Yellow = "My Hobby"; Red = "My Job"; Purple = "My Faith."

"At first glance, I thought yellow—'My Hobby'—had won out. But, then, I realized yellow only stands out because it's a brighter color. Then, I thought that maybe there were more red ribbons. But upon looking again, that seemed wrong, too. Honestly, the colors seem so evenly distributed that, without counting the hundreds of pieces of ribbon tied to the tree, it's impossible to say which color is most prevalent. Indeed, there seems, at last, to be an equal number of each color: red, yellow, green, and purple. If any single color won out, it's only by a very narrow margin. I tried to imagine what the tree would look like with all purple, or all green, or all red, or all yellow ribbons, and you know what? I really like not being able to spot a clear winner. Think of an all-white or an all-blue Christmas tree. It's pretty, but it's ultimately not very interesting. Diversity makes the world go round, and I guess that ribbon covered tree proves it."

—Michael Russotto, Woolly Company Member & Will in ***A Bright New Boise***



At the columns in the lower lobby, you were asked to decide which exclamation you'd rather never hear again—"For Christ's sake!" or "For fuck's sake!"—by stamping out your choice.

"I wasn't at all surprised to find that the majority of our audiences expressed that they'd rather not hear 'For Christ's sake' again. As I talked to folks in the lobby after our performances, they continually remarked on how funny they found my character's really foul language. They'd often joke about how much they 'fucking enjoyed it!' Not many people, though, felt comfortable talking about the play's very thought-provoking religious themes, as if those thoughts—their thoughts about God—were not proper fodder for open discussion. Maybe it's just that 'fuck' feels better to say or that 'fuck'—so over-used in popular media—has become one of our society's catch-all words for any number of feelings or experiences. But I've often said that at a cocktail party it's perfectly okay to rail about politics or sex, but say the phrase 'I love Jesus' and people can't back away from you fast enough! Perhaps this is too cynical a view, but it may be that people stamped out 'For Christ's sake' not because of any deep-seated respect for God or Christ or organized religion. Instead, audience may have done so out of discomfort—perhaps distaste, even—for anything remotely relate to religion."

—Emily Townley, Woolly Company Member & Pauline in *A Bright New Boise*