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## **TIME TRAVELERS BALL ORIENTATION**

### **1) INTRO**

A tenderfoot new year approaches  
or that space in time which all-ways  
seems to lead to reflection,  
to aspiration,  
to time unraveling,  
to time traveling —  
spacing out the possibilities,  
timing the leap  
backward, forward,  
here and now.

Time is in, time is out,  
time dies every moment —  
somewhere between tic and toc  
the uncertainty principle  
opens the window and rolls the dice:

Where are we?

How fast are we going?  
only to be reborn  
in the very same breath.

Time is in —

let the fun begin  
while the snake sheds its skin;

Time is out —

out of bounds  
who knows what will be found...

You are cordially invited to play with Peak Experience Productions and The String Cheese Incident at our latest interactive festival: The Time Travelers Ball. On both planetary and personal levels we seem to be running out of time. This year, our theme directly addresses our relationship with time. We are setting out to reshape our relationship with time so that it works for us, not the other way around. Our goal for this festival is to facilitate a series of playful interactions that will allow us to individually and collectively make this shift.

Virtually all of us in Western culture have attachments to old "Mr. Clock" that need re-adjusting. Learning how to step outside of our normal social conditioning and finding ways to creatively play with the flowing rhythms and cycles of "natural" time and can help us to re-align our relationship with time. We do not necessarily need more time, what most of us could really use is more *meaningful* time. It's how we Experience time that matters. Since Albert Einstein's discoveries we know time is not just relative to velocity but also to our Inner Experience. Our hope is that this event will help us move beyond our concerns about not having enough time. So, please join us as we reset our inner clocks to *Nowness* and intentionally delve into the past and the future to create the best time yet.

The end/beginning of the great New Year cycle that is approaching elicits several questions:

- What negative attachments to Time do we want to leave behind as we move into the new year?
- What are our hopes for the future and how can we support each other in manifesting them in our shared reality?
- What kind of relationship do each of us want to have with Time in the coming year?

Our hope is that this event will be a constructive support mechanism for all of us in addressing these questions so that we can move together into the New Year with refreshed optimism and hope...because that's what New Year's Eve should and can be about....as well as being a great reason to have a legendary party!

As with all Peak Experience productions the key to having the best time possible is through PLAYING A ROLE. We are inviting all who attend to spend at least a little bit of the three days of the event exploring the various installations and time-related activities at the venue. This orientation guide shall explain how you can help co-create the magic at this event as well as numerous aspects of the Time Travel theme.

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## **2) TIME TRAVEL**

This festival will explore two types of Time Travel. We will explore the classic quantum notion of time travel and we will explore the alchemical process of time travel.

We're looking at the topic of time travel from two different angles, classic time travel (as described by quantum and astrophysics) and alchemical time travel (in which we can actually jump ahead of current time!). First, in our very pragmatic Western Culture the scientific theories behind time travel evoke enormous creativity and speculation. We're inviting all who attend to spend at least a little bit of the three days of the event "getting into character" as time travelers from another time/space. By exploring this type of time travel in this way we will re-examine how time shapes human thinking and culture and gain a greater appreciation for the extraordinary nature of time and how it shapes our very existence.

The second is a simple yet profound process that will allow us to really time travel! Here's the basic idea: in our "normal" daily state of consciousness we are reacting to everything that happens around us a fraction of a second *after* it actually happens. In a sense, we're experiencing a movie of what has just happened. However, when we get "in the flow" while doing some sort of "action meditation" (such as making improvisational music and/or dancing) we actually move into the true Here

and Now. Dancing to the String Cheese Incident allows us to shift into an Experience of time in which we are interacting with the true moment as it unfolds. Then, when we apply our intuition, we can actually start to interact with the future *before* it happens. This is a very real way each and every one of us can time travel. (If interested, you can learn more about this in the Alchemical Time Travel Section of this orientation guide.) Now, imagine what might happen if, as we move towards the Great Midnight Moment on New Year's Eve, a critical mass of event attendees can move into the Here and Now through mindfully dancing together and then jump a second or two into the future by being intuitive with one another and the band. It is our belief that this process can yield the desired effect of making our relationship with time more meaningful. The band and the Peak, SCI and Madison House crews are all tremendously excited about this.

### **3) HOW PEOPLE CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS EVENT**

Those of you who have been to our events before know that participation in our theme-related activities is fun and a great way not just to meet people but also to forge substantive connections with like-minded friends. This event offers several ways in which to participate:

a) **MyStIc DeLiRiUm – the Saloon Out of Time** – We invite you to spend some quality time as an Intrepid Time Traveler from another Time sharing your perspectives on Time and Time Travel with other Intrepid Time Travelers in MyStIc DeLiRiUm - the Saloon Out of Time (located on the first floor in Larkin Hall).

b) **A Course In Time** – In preparation for participation in this installation we invite you to think about what negative attachments to Time you would like to let go of and what visions and hopes you have for how you would like to be spending your time in the coming year. Please feel free to bring thoughts and small treasures to add to our Time Capsule (to be sealed until the first Incident of 2012). We will be photographing and videotaping all of you Intrepid Time Travelers for inclusion in this Time Capsule.

c) **The Midnight Shebang** – Get ready to Time Travel as we fly into 2003. Hint: Time Travelers from the future may want to wear black-light sensitive outfits. Also, while we won't be doing our traditional large-scale parade this year we will be presenting some mighty HUGE surprises and

you can help out by remembering to give us room on the main floor to move some giant props around.

d) **Accessing the Groove and Keeping It Open** – Simply said: let's all create the space for everyone in the venue to have the most magical, safe and loving Time possible. We invite you to take some time to meet new friends and give out lots of hugs.

### • ***Choosing and getting into character***

This theme allows us an unlimited potential for choosing characters to embody. Any figure from any point in time could be a time traveler who has come to the NYE Incident to share their knowledge and creatively engage other characters from throughout time. You could be a character from another time - such as Cleopatra, Socrates, Leonardo Da Vinci, or Janis Joplin. You could be a character from science fiction – such as Mr. Spock or Jean Luc Picard or, you could be *yourself* from another time. It doesn't matter. What does matter is that your chosen character can bring to the event some valuable observation from their time/space to share with others while at the event. In this sense we are doing a large-scale magical group living theatre Experiment. Our hope is that if enough people do this (as have done at our previous events), all these wild observations and interactions between characters from across Time will shift our individual and collective awareness for the duration of the festival. In turn, this Experience may positively reframe our perspectives on Time as we journey back into the "real" world.

We can take this much deeper than a mere costumes, however. Try to think about it more as Getting in Character. This is a chance to step way outside your day-to-day self, embrace a different perspective on the universe and play with that concept for a while. You will find this approach may truly lead to a life-changing Experience. What your mind is wearing is every bit as important as what your body is wearing.

Say you were thinking of coming as Sigmund Freud. What would it take to convey the essence of Freud's character? Reading up on Freud would be a great start.

What would Sigmund Freud add to the mix?

What would Sigmund Freud say about time travel?

What would a conversation between Sigmund Freud and Jerry Garcia on the topic of time travel be like? What are they going to say to create a meaningful interaction?

What would happen if the Fat Elvis meets the Thin Elvis?

Please share your costume and character ideas with each other. Often all some of us need is that little stimulus to spark an idea and the rest follows. Security has asked us to remind you the NO TOY GUNS, BOWS AND ARROWS, SWORDS, ETC., ARE GOING TO BE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.

If you decide that your focus at these shows is going to be on the music and on your friends, rather than getting involved in these theme-related activities, then know we're also working just as hard to help you have the best time possible. We invite you to energetically support those of your fellow attendees who will be getting involved in these theme-related activities. This approach will yield the most amazing Time possible for everyone at the event.

#### **4) ALCHEMICAL TIME TRAVEL - A BASIC OVERVIEW**

We here at the Peak Experience Production Alchemy Laboratory have been hard at work developing the alchemical time travel process mentioned herein. For those of you interested in further exploring this powerful technique here's the 5-step recipe for Alchemical Time Travel. This technique can be accomplished by anyone with an open mind and a sense of adventure.

##### **● BE PRESENT**

Even as we pass through many spaces and states of awareness, Intrepid Time Travelers strive to be present so we can fully Experience each and every moment. Our Time Travel journey starts with showing up and being present.

##### **● BE OPEN-MINDED**

Intrepid Time Travelers strive to be open-minded and honest about our attachments to time. We are also willing to change our perceptions about time and how we dance with it. This step in the process is about opening up to the possibility that we can really jump into the future.

- **SET INTENTION**

Intrepid Time Travelers visualize and then state the desired outcome of our journeys because mindfulness about our goals will make their realization more probable.

- **BE PLAYFUL**

Intrepid Time Travelers embrace curiosity, creativity, exploration, intuition and fun. We explore each moment by dancing creatively with the organically chaotic and rhythmic nature of all levels of existence.

- **BE TIMELESS**

When Intrepid Time Travelers set course based upon an intentional goal, and are open-minded, playful, intuitive and present along the way, we maximize the potential for achieving the state of oneness with any and all desired times and places. We recognize that we can be both in the moment and intuitively ahead of each moment as they unfold.

As simple as this process sounds it is very powerful. We invite you to try this experiment: Print the above-mentioned steps out on five separate pieces of paper. Put them somewhere you will read them at least once per day. After a few days, once you have committed them to memory, try them out when you are doing some form of action meditation – dancing, making music, doing Tai Chi or Yoga, making love, etc. Collaborative/team action meditations demonstrate this process most clearly. Once you have warmed up and are in “the groove” you will notice, if you are doing this process properly, how you are acting with the moment rather than reacting to it. Once you reach this state “let go” into the flow and invite your intuitive powers to kick in. After a while, if you’re not forcing this process, you will notice that you are able to intuit and dance with what has yet to actually happen. Congratulations, you are now Time Traveling! Once you realize the power of this simple process you may want to share it with others.

## **5) QUANTUM TIME TRAVEL - A BASIC OVERVIEW**

What is Time? In 1895, H.G. Wells wrote, “There is no difference between Time and any of the three dimensions of Space, except that our consciousness moves along it.” Ten years later, Albert Einstein published

his Special Theory of Relativity. In this paradigm shifting statement, Einstein described Time as a Fourth Dimension, independent of the X, Y, and Z dimensions (height, depth, width) used to describe Space. In his equations, Time and Space hold equal footing.

Much to his own dismay, Sir Isaac Newton first described that there is no Absolute Position in Space because there is no Absolute Rest. [Newton was heavily criticized for being irrational, refusing to believe what his own theories proved as they conflicted with his notion of an Absolute God.] Einstein's theories laid to rest the concept of Absolute Time. Time, when measure from different positions (think really cosmically large scale), is all Relative to the Position of the Observer.

It seems in order to travel through Time, one would need to reach the speed of light. Einstein's famous equation,  $E=mc^2$ , shows that energy and mass are equivalent so that, as an object approaches the speed of light, the energy of the object in motion gets applied to the object's mass, making it harder and harder to increase its speed. As an object approaches the speed of light, its mass becomes infinite and it would require an infinite amount of energy to get it there. Light waves can travel at this speed because they have no intrinsic mass. His theories, when pushed to the limit, do not prohibit travel at the speed of light, they just say it would be Really, REALLY Hard.

One promising avenue seems to lie in the natural phenomena of Black Holes. Black holes are collapsed stars whose gravitational pull is so strong, not even light can escape it! At the center of a black hole lies a Singularity where space and time cease to exist and all matter is crushed into infinity. It has been proposed that if a black hole is rotating, the spin causes the singularity to form in a ring. Theoretically, one could pass through this ring to pop out in another space and time. The challenges lie in controlling when and where you come out as well as how to keep the fragile ring from collapsing due to the forces applied as you, or your vessel, approach it. One could even picture two separate black holes connected by some kind of inter-cosmic wiring. This has been called a Wormhole. Since Space and Time are treated on equal footings, not only could such a wormhole transport one to another place, but also to another time. Again, keeping the Wormhole open is the challenge.



There have been many depictions of Time Machines throughout literature and film. Some take advantage of harnessing existing black holes or wormholes. Others try to create their own rip in the "fabric of time." All of these tales inevitably run into some of the perplexing paradoxes that continue to challenge curious minds. Some have proposed one would be able, with the aid of a Time Machine, to travel forward into the future, and back only to the point of the invention of the time machine. This would explain why we are not currently surrounded by time-travelers, as the time machine has not yet been successfully invented.

Many have asked what would happen if you were to travel back in time and alter the past? The classic "Grandfather Paradox" explores what would happen if you traveled back in time and killed your grandfather when he was still a child? Your parent, and thus you, would never be born,.....so how could you have gone back to kill him anyway? There are two proposed solutions to the Paradox. In one belief, the past is totally defined. Everything that has happened must happen, the past cannot be altered, and the Universe will prevent anything from happening to the contrary. The time traveler would experience endless "mishaps" in trying to kill his grandparent, never achieving the murder and keeping the course of time intact.

The other solution draws from one interpretation of quantum physics describing an alternate reality created for every possible solution of every possible experiment or decision. The time traveler kills his grandfather and is blipped out of existence in one Reality, while in the other Reality, he lives and time move on. This would be the Parallel Worlds depicted in many works of science fiction. While this may sound totally ridiculous, this notion is believed by many leading scientists, and if nothing else, is not prohibited by the laws of physics.

And what of travel into the future? One school of astrophysics holds that the Future is the Direction of Time in which galaxies are further apart, as the universe continues to expand from the momentum of the Big Bang. Time travels in a single direction. A vase falls, it breaks. It never reassembles. We have reason to believe the expanding nature of the universe as initially propelled by the Big Bang may someday reverse and

things will be drawn back towards in a Big Crunch. Will time travel backwards in this direction as well? Will all broken vases reassemble? General consensus seems to be in the time-asymmetric conclusion that even if the universe starts to contract, time will continue in a progressive fashion. Is it really unidirectional, though? Is there any difference between the past and the future? Is there such a thing as forward or backward causation? What if the present is really the Eternal Now, all events occur simultaneously and all points are the same point surrounded by infinity?

Must it be that the past creates the present, and the present the future? What if we take our Vision of how the future appears to us, and then let it influence how we will live and interact from this moment on. Living tomorrow's dream today! And perhaps all that is needed to change the past is to see it as unreal, a phantom of the mind. Perhaps the Eternal Now is all that exists, the past only memories and the future potential. How do you travel through the Now?

For more info on this subject you can turn to the following books:

A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking

About Time by Paul Davies

The Soul of Time by Joseph Needleman

In Search of Shrodinger's Cat by John Gribben

Time Travel in Einstein's Universe by J. Richard Gott

## **6) COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - AN INTERVIEW WITH PEAK EXPERIENCE'S WIZARD OF AAHS**

***You folks at Peak Experience always set an intention for each festival you do....what's the Intention this time around?***

Our intention in co-creating the Time Travelers Ball is to learn, through creative celebration, how we can all make our time more meaningful. We aspire to co-create a safe, joyous, transcendent Peak Experience for all in attendance. Framed copies of our event intentions sit on the desks of all core Peak staff members so that we keep our eyes on the prize as we work.

***Why choose Time Travel as a theme?***

Because it's a perennial fantasy across the planet. Because the basic idea requires us to suspend belief in the mundane, to embrace the Great Unknown, and because it's cool!

***Why are Peak events so different from other festivals?***

We here at Peak Experience Productions are of the belief that producing large-scale community celebrations such as this one are important part of what human beings need to be doing on the planet in order to counter-balance all the negativity and violence that haunt our species. To expand the positive impact of our events we base them on perennial, universal, archetypal themes, such as evolution (NYE in Portland two years ago), nature spirits (the Full Moon Dream Dance), or this year's theme: time travel. This approach transforms our events into *adventures* rather than just concerts. Also, by giving attendees numerous chances to help co-create the magic of these events and to substantively interact with one another we help cultivate a deeper, more meaningful Experience for all. Those of you who've been to our festivals before know that just about everyone in attendance have profoundly rewarding Experiences.

***At your festivals there are always a lot of ways for the audience to get involved in helping make the magic of the event. Why this focus?***

We invite you to participate in this community adventure with uncommon enthusiasm and curiosity. Experience has shown that this approach will yield an enormously positive outcome (as they say; the more you contribute, the more you gain).

***Why are we not having our traditional 300 participant parade this time around?***

We've done a parade for every single one of the NYE events with SCI to date. These parades require an enormous amount of effort for both fans and staff that, right around the holidays, is very stressful for everyone involved. So we decided to give folks a break this time around and try something different. We'll come back to parades, we promise.

***Why is every Peak Experience Production based upon a different mythic theme?***

For three interrelated reasons. First, because it says to the world at large that we do not believe any single mythology or perspective is the one truth. We honor all forms of wisdom, be they perennial or newly emerging, so long as they bring meaning to our lives and inspire us to connect and play with each other creatively. Secondly, we intentionally dance with different themes because it keeps things more interesting! There are so many fascinating perspectives, stories, concepts, myths, perennial wisdoms and theatrical vehicles to explore. And thirdly, shaking it up each time forces us to stay on our toes, to keep our creative muscle flexed.

***But why, when so many of us love to fire dance to SCI, don't we have fire dancing on stage at every SCI/Peak collaboration?***

For the same reason. It keeps things from getting too familiar. Constant change keeps us in the habit of thinking creatively. A lot of the core staff at Peak Experience are fire dancers, so this issue starts with us.

***Peak has traditionally invited huge numbers of audience participants into the venue on the afternoons before the shows to help build props, etc. Why do we need to limit pre-show entrance into the building this time around?***

Because things have changed in the world over the past two years and limiting public access to the building saves us thousands of dollars in security costs and a huge amount of stress on our building staff. We'll get back to inviting lots of folks to help build props and rehearse parades at the summer festivals where this is not an issue.

***Why don't those of us who dress up in costume and/or help set up installations automatically get free admission to the shows?***

The idea behind Peak Experience Productions is that we give audiences the opportunity to become participants through co-creating the magic of the shows rather than just watching it happen. The result is a profoundly deeper Experience for all involved. There are a few volunteer positions available for every festival which exchange work for tickets...but these are usually long gone before we announce the shows and they aren't jobs that deal with parades or ceremonies, they involve lifting heavy things and running errands that take these people away from the music. With that said, by involving participants in the creation of costumes, props, installations and parades we're able to give the community at large an

extraordinary amount of Experience for the money we charge. So, it still costs the full price of a ticket to come...you'll just get a lot more out of the event because you're putting more energy in.

Poem courtesy of Lester