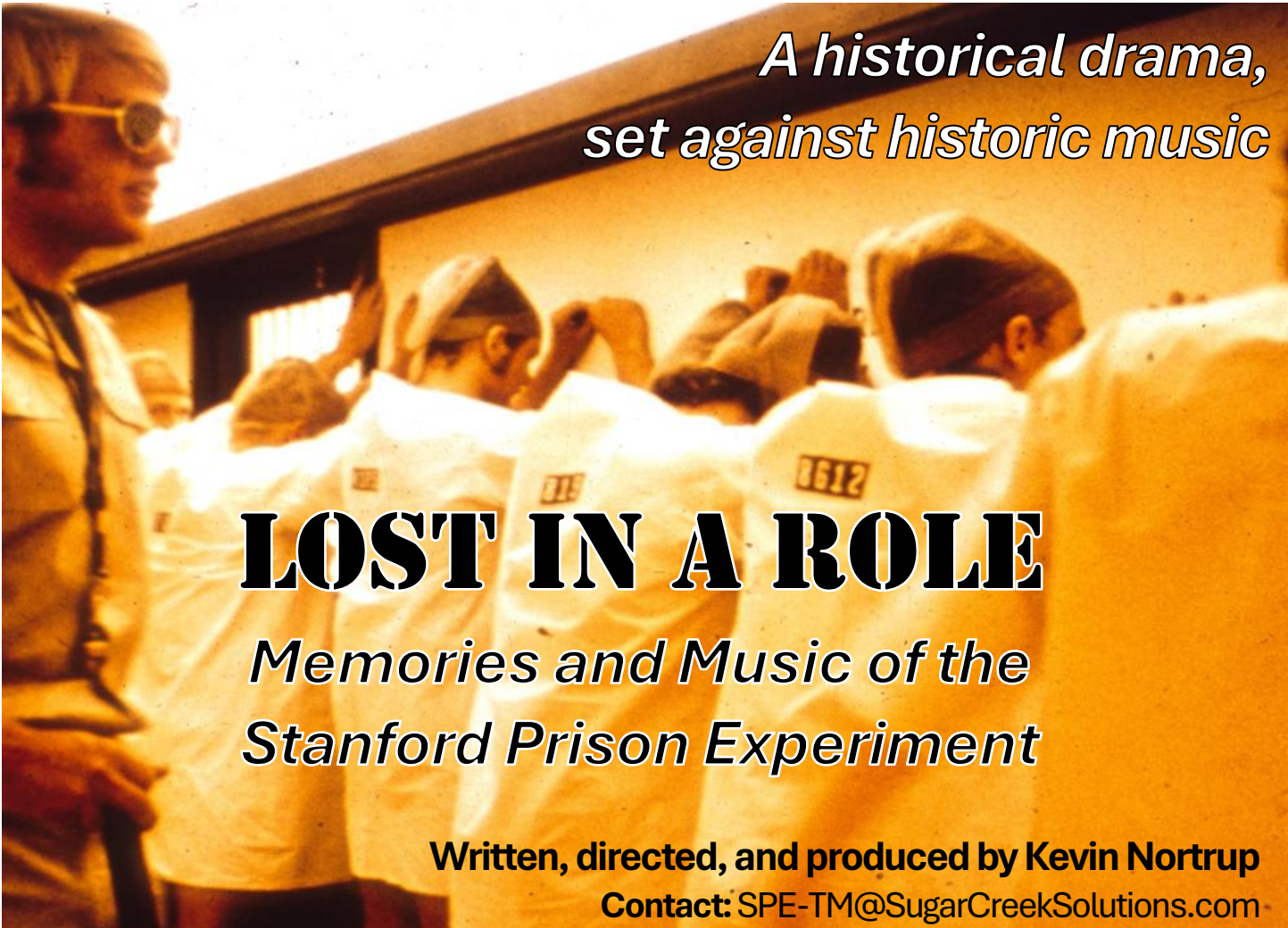




*A historical drama,
set against historic music*

LOST IN A ROLE

Memories and Music of the Stanford Prison Experiment

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Years after the infamous Stanford Prison Experiment, a participant recounts the background and traumatizing experience of an investigation into evil that became its illustration, through eye-witness narrative and reimagined lyrics to popular songs that were playing on the radio while it took place.

Lost in a Role: Memories and Music of the Stanford Prison Experiment tells the story of the landmark social-psychology simulation to investigate the behavioral effects of perceived imbalance of power. A team of researchers, led by psychology professor Dr. Philip Zimbardo at Stanford University in August 1971, converted the basement of the Psychology Building into a mock prison, then randomly assigned college-age volunteers to be either guards or prisoners. As researchers and participants alike got lost in their respective roles, deteriorating psychosocial conditions led to increasing abuse and cruelty. The entire study, planned for two weeks, was abandoned after only six days – but its legacy is profound and timeless.

The narration comes from the reflections of a participant in the Stanford Prison Experiment. Each scene's narration is rephrased and reinforced by new lyrics to popular songs that were playing on local radio as the Experiment took place: two of the songs were chart-toppers from earlier years, while the others were "Top 40" singles during that specific week (August 15-20, 1971). This juxtaposition invites the audience to consider how different a society might be, if the lessons from the Experiment – which are even more critically relevant today – were as received, retained, and recounted as are the hook lines and catchy refrains of popular music.

Lost in a Role is not a parody of the Stanford Prison Experiment. It is a respectful, faithful, yet innovative recounting of an important historical event that, when not remembered, is all too likely to be repeated.