

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/trust-in-creative-collaboration>

As a member of the band Fun., singer/songwriter Nate Ruess talks about the shape of the creative process when working with a team. Ruess also touches on the importance of surrounding yourself with individuals you know and trust, in conversation with Stanford Professor Tina Seelig.



Transcript

So let's dive into the creative process.. So, Nate, you're in a band, that is a pretty intense creative group.. Can you tell us a little bit about the process of working together as a band to not only create a song, produce a song, what does everyone bring to the table and how the decisions get made in that process? Well, I think it takes a lot of knowing what kind of what people do best.. The songs generally start in my head and I'll conceptualize them, conceptualize kind of the album where it's going to go and then we'll all get together and kind of dissect it a little bit and make an album from that.. And I think it works so well in Fun because we know each other but we're also such close friends that - I have been in writing sessions with people that I can't stand and it doesn't help.. And I think to be around people that you trust, that you know kind of what their strengths are and you kind of - there was a time early on in the band when we would do some - the two of us would leave the room when the one person was kind of doing the thing that they'd specialize in.. And it was just at the beginning of the band because it was so exciting for us to come back into the room and hear what they had done because while the songs, you generally start with me, it's cool to see to kind of the arc they take thereafter..