



Student News

Play recounts Billie Holiday's life story



Actors from the Jungle Theater's production of *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* read scenes from the play for a special outreach performance at the Graduate School on June 13. The play recounts Billie Holiday's life story through the songs that made her famous.

The year: 1959. The place: a small, intimate bar in Philadelphia where Holiday puts on a show that, unbeknownst to the audience, will leave them witness to one of her final performances. The play touches on the major obstacles in Holiday's life including racism, physical and sexual abuse, and her long history of addiction—as well as her genius musical talent.

Following the performance, Graduate School audience members joined the cast for a lively discussion of themes related to addiction and personal narrative.

The performance was brought to campus by OnStage: Creating a Community Audience around Live Theater, an outreach program operated through Springboard for the Arts. OnStage brings actors to college classrooms and community settings around the Twin Cities, seeking to identify the audience's personal connections to topics presented in local theatrical productions.



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