



# 2019/2020 NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCING THE UPCOMING SEASON FOR IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS



Wendy Knox (left), Maria Asp, and Rajané Katurah Brown facilitating an On Stage discussion in a classroom at St. Catherine University about the play *Marie and Rosetta*.

## PROMOTING AND DISCUSSING THEATER IN COLLEGE CLASSROOMS

On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater is a theater outreach program fiscally sponsored through [Springboard for the Arts](#), with the goal of enhancing in-class learning, and building the next generation of theater audiences by making local theater relevant to current events, personal values and narratives.



H. Adam Harris (left) and Austene Van facilitating a discussion in a classroom at MCTC about the play *West of Central*.

Traveling to academic classes, On Stage brings local actors to read scenes from a play in current

local production to a variety of classes and disciplines. "The whole mission is to get a younger audience to see live theater and cultural events in the Twin Cities," says Lucas Erickson, On Stage Founder and Executive Director. "Our hope is to connect theaters and educators throughout the Twin Cities to make attending plays easier, relevant and more enjoyable for all."

**Since launching in the fall of 2016, over 3,000 college and high school students have participated in an On Stage in-class educational discussion, with over 1,000 (32%) subsequently paying to see the show that was discussed.**

In completing a masters (MPS) in Arts and Cultural Leadership at the University of Minnesota, Erickson analyzed theater audiences in his final project, *An Exploration of Methods and Challenges in Building Younger Theater Audiences*. Click the link below to read Erickson's capstone paper.

[U of M Capstone Paper](#)

## ON STAGE PARTNERS WITH LOCAL THEATERS

Over the past three years On Stage has partnered with eight theaters in the Twin Cities including **Mixed Blood Theatre** on *An Octoroon*, **Park Square Theatre** on *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Marie and Rosetta*, **Jungle Theater** on *Anna in the Tropics*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* and *Actually*, **Minnesota Jewish Theater Company** on *We are the Levinson's*, *Collected Stories* and *Actually*, **Pillsbury House Theater** on *Pike St.* and *West of Central*, **Frank Theatre** on *Revolt. She said. Revolt again*, **Theater Latté Da** on *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and **Children's Theatre Company** on *The Lorax*.



Click on the links below to read the news articles written about our visits to Augsburg and Hamline when we discussed the play *Actually*.

[Augsburg ECHO](#)

[Hamline ORACLE](#)

"This was exactly the kind of discussion we needed to 'jump-start' our course. The students were greatly impressed, not only by the superb talent and expertise of these marvelous actors, but also with the sincerity and relevance of the accompanying discussion."

Willie Johnson  
Professor Normandale College

"The actors provoked me and the students to build on the work we have already done together, but to go deeper... When you all left, I put aside my lecture notes for the evening, and we spent an hour and a half building on the foundation you and the actors had built."

Peter Rachleff  
Professor - University of Minnesota

# SEARCHING FOR THE AUDIENCES OF THE FUTURE

On Stage has visited the following universities and colleges: **University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas, St. Catherine University, Metro State University, Augsburg University, Macalester College, Concordia University, Hamline University, Bethel University, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Normandale Community College, and Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies**



Jay Owen Eisenberg and Michelle O'Neill posing with Augsburg University students after facilitating a discussion about the play *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

Academic departments where On Stage facilitated in-class discussions include: **Communications, Sociology, Theater, English - Creative Writing, English - Literature, History, Education, Psychology, Music, Family Social Sciences, Leadership, Linguistics, Law, Political Science, Environmental Science, Women and Gender Studies, African American Studies, and Addiction Studies.**

On Stage has also visited and facilitated discussions at the following high schools: **Washburn High School, South High School, Southwest High School, Perpich Center for Arts Education, and Harding High School.**

"Thanks for exposing [my students] to new ways to view the world, others, and themselves. That's exactly what I hope for in my classes and it was a joy to see it happen today!"

Margaret Berg  
Teacher - Southwest High School

"The conversation worked beautifully with the discussions that we have been having in class and especially with the material that I have been presenting in my lectures."

Diana Dean  
Professor - Metro State University



## 2019/2020 SEASON FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

***ESCAPED ALONE***



**@ Gremlin Theatre (Produced by Frank Theatre)**

**September 6 - September 29, 2019**

Written by Caryl Churchill

*Escaped Alone* presents an elliptical view of the apocalypse, fantasy intricately wired with politics. Four women in their seventies gather for tea in an English garden, combining small talk and the horrors of modern life. Their gossipy everyday conversations lay bare their psychological troubles - from depression to fear of cats, from an “accidentally” dead husband to agoraphobia - punctuated starkly with surreal apocalyptic monologues. Which world is real? How are they connected?

## **AUBERGINE**

**@ Park Square Theatre**

**September 20 - October 20, 2019**

Written by Julia Cho

A son cooks a meal for his dying father to say everything that his words can't. Lyrical, humorous and full of love, this is a story of an intergenerational Korean family struggling to relate across emotional, linguistic and cultural divides. When words fail, a home-cooked meal transcends differences and brings us together.

## **SKELETON CREW**

**@ Yellow Tree Theatre (Produced by New Dawn Theatre)**

**January 31 - March 1, 2020**

Written by Dominique Morisseau

At the start of the Great Recession, one of the last auto stamping plants in hard-hit Detroit is on shaky ground and four workers are forced to choose how to move on if the plant goes under. Powerful and poetic, *Skeleton Crew* is an emotionally bracing and relevant story of working class survival amidst the eroding American dream.

## **INTERSTATE**

**@ Mixed Blood Theatre**

**March 6 - March 29, 2020**

Written by Melissa Li and Kit Yan

Interstate is an Asian-American pop-rock poetry musical that follows a transgender spoken word performer who becomes internet-famous along with his best friend, a lesbian singer-songwriter. Fueled by the allure of fame and a desire to connect with their community, the band embarks on a road trip across America for their first national tour.

## **TWELVE ANGRY MEN**

**@ Theater Latté Da**

**May 27 - June 28, 2020**

Written by Reginald Rose

In form, *Twelve Angry Men* is a courtroom drama; in purpose, it's a crash course in those passages of the Constitution that promise defendants a fair trial and the presumption of innocence. In a small New York City jury room, on "the hottest day of the year," twelve men debate the fate of a young defendant charged with murdering his father.

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For questions about upcoming On Stage discussions, and to schedule a classroom visit, please visit:

[onstagemn.org](http://onstagemn.org)

Email On Stage



