

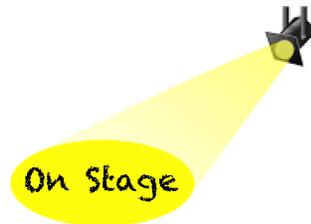
**On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater**

*Marie and Rosetta*

**Park Square Theatre, November 23 – December 30, 2018**

**Created by: Lucas Erickson**

**Fiscal Sponsor: Springboard for the Arts**



## **On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater**

**Mission:** To make local theater relevant to younger and non-traditional audiences and to lay the groundwork for building future theater audiences

“On Stage” raises awareness of the theater offerings in the Twin Cities to academic classes and groups. It brings local actors to Twin Cities college classrooms and community settings to read scenes from a play in current local production. Participants then engage in a lively discussion of the play’s themes, tying in current events, personal values and narratives to stimulate critical thinking. Subsequently attending the full play is encouraged.

## **ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Discussion Schedule**

**1. St Thomas - First-year experience course - Buffy Smith - Monday November 26, 9:15 - 10:15AM. 70 students. Ansa, Rajané**

\* The purpose of the course is to help our scholars learn practical skills for thriving in college (time management, note taking, building relationships with faculty, etc.) and we prepare them to be empowered leaders who work to advance the common good.

**2. U of M - HIST 3020 - Hands-On History - Elaine Tyler May - Wednesday November 28th, 9:45 - 10:45AM. 20 students. Maria, Rajané**

\* As a "hands on history" class, we are more concerned with "how to do history" than following a particular narrative. The class will have been working with a collection of primary documents on the Cold War era, along with their oral history projects.

**3. Macalester – Intro to African American History - Crystal Moten - Wednesday November 28, 12:00 - 1:00PM. 10 students. Maria, Rajané, Jamecia**

\* The class is a thematic introduction to African American History. When you come to class we will be on a unit called "Culture: Play and Performance."

**4. Augsburg - MUS 272 - Human Identity Through Creative Arts - Roberta Kagin - Thursday November 29, 1:50 - 2:50PM. 20 students. Ansa, Rajané**

\* A study of the aesthetic expression and experience as they relate to human identity, with an emphasis on psychological, cultural, and biological aspects of musical behavior. An understanding of the relationships of the creative therapies of art, music, drama, and movement.

**5. First Covenant Church - Conversations on Racial and Economic Justice (CREJ) program - Todd Bratulich/Dan Collison - Sunday December 2, 11:00AM - 12:00PM. 20 participants. Ansa, Maria, Rajané**

\* CREJ is a monthly conversation that we host around justice issues, particularly in regards to racial justice, but also broadly engaging intersectional topics that range from LGBTQ+ inclusion to homelessness and human trafficking.

**6. East Side Freedom Library - Peter Rachleff - Monday December 3, 7:00 - 8:00PM. 10 participants. Maria, Wendy**

\* The ESFL's mission is to inspire solidarity, advocate for justice and work toward equity for all.

**7. Women's Foundation of Minnesota - Staff Event - Amanda Storm Schuster - Tuesday December 4, 9:30 - 10:30AM. 18 participants. Maria, Wendy, Rajané**

\* The Women's Foundation of Minnesota invests in innovation to drive gender equity in Minnesota.

**8. MCTC - WOST 1140: Gender and Culture - Katie Bashore - Tuesday December 4, 12:45 - 1:45PM. 25 students. Ansa, Wendy, Rajané**

\* This course looks at the relationship between women's and men's bodies and culturally constructed gender roles.

**ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Discussion Schedule Cont.**

**9. St. Catherine University - CORE 1000 - The Reflective Woman - Cecilia Konchar Farr - Wednesday December 5th, 12:15 - 1:20PM. 80 students. Maria, Wendy, Rajané**

\* A first-year seminar, the course is a semester-long introduction to liberal arts learning and is taught, this semester, by two professors from art and two from English. We will have talked a lot about race and privilege, about art and identity, about texts and how to read them, about the links between art and justice.

**10. Augsburg - MUS 242: Jazz History - Kameron Markworth – Thursday December 6, 12:40 - 1:40PM. 20 students. Ansa, Wendy, Rajané**

\* This course is a study of the musical elements, cultural perspectives, and the historical developments of jazz.

**11. Augsburg - MUS 270: Pop History - Kameron Markworth – Thursday December 6, 1:50 - 2:50PM. 20 students. Ansa, Wendy, Rajané**

\* This study of popular music offers a chance to examine a diverse cross section of music history through the lens of easily palatable and familiar sounds.

**ON STAGE: *Marie and Rosetta* – Total Tickets Purchased**

**Total Participants: 313**

**Total Tickets Purchased: 140**

**Note: The total tickets purchased was confirmed by Park Square Theatre's Box Office.**

**ON STAGE: *Marie and Rosetta* – Survey Results**

**1. Have you seen a play before?**

**104 YES (92%) 9 NO**

**2. Have you been to this specific theater before?**

**20 YES 93 NO (82%)**

**3. After our visit, do you feel more inclined to see the play?**

**110 YES (97%) 3 NO**

**4. Do you now feel more inclined to see other plays at this theater?**

**101 YES (89%) 10 NO**

**5. Do you think this program works well in college classes?**

**110 YES (97%) 2 NO**

**Note: This survey was issued to participants in three of the nine discussions.**

## **ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Discussion Agenda/Topics**

**Lucas** will welcome the class, introduce himself and say why we are there/what On Stage is.

**Ansa/Maria/Wendy/Rajane/Jamecia** will introduce themselves. **Ansa/Maria** will ask who has seen a play before? Recently? Where/what have they seen? Have they seen a play at Park Square? How about concerts? What music/songs are you listening to? Where do you go to hear music? Why?

**Ansa/Maria** will ask to discuss in small groups your first memory of music/songs. Some share with class. Who sings/plays an instrument/reads sheet music?

**Ansa/Maria** will lead a short game. Ask for a few volunteers. Take a rhythm, change it (make it your own) or repeat it, pass it. Then have everyone do it in small groups. Ask what they thought about it. Scary? Easy?

**Wendy/Rajane/Jamecia** will give some background about the play/playwright and weigh in about their personal take on it and the process. **Rajane/Jamecia** can talk about how they prepared for their roles.

**Wendy/Rajane/Jamecia** will set up the first scene (Pg. 28 – 33). Then read/perform (**Ansa/Maria** will read one of the characters if need be).

Ask audience what they heard/thought.

**Ansa/Maria/Wendy/Rajane/Jamecia** will lead a discussion about topics/themes covered in the scene including: Invisible rules (rules in school, life, the south, certain spaces – churches, etc); do you like dancing to music and looking weird?; two syles to sing a song? “right” and wrong”? “church” and “secular”? “clean” and “dirty”? **Rajane/Jamecia** can maybe sing a part of a song two ways (maybe ‘Rock Me’ or ‘Didn’t it Rain’). What is “dirty” music today?

**Wendy/Rajane/Jamecia** will set up the second scene (Pg. 52 – 55). Then read/perform (**Ansa/Maria** will read one of the characters if need be).

Ask audience what they heard/thought.

**Ansa/Maria/Wendy/Rajane/Jamecia** will lead a discussion about topics/themes covered in the scene including: “Is he messing with your music?”; women/gender roles – providing for husband/family/sacrifices.

**Lucas** will remind everyone how to get \$10 tickets to *see the play*. Ask actors to plug work they are currently doing.

## **ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Feedback**

*I really enjoyed the visit yesterday. I think Jamecia, Rajane, and Maria's contributions really added to what we had been doing in the class. Although the students were a bit quiet in the large group, which can sometimes be characteristic of Macalester students, I think they really appreciated the opportunity. It's one thing to read about these concepts, another to see them embodied.*

*I'll see you at the show!*

*Crystal Moten – Macalester College*

*The class session was wonderful! Thank you so much. All of you were fabulous, and what fun to play games and get the class loosened up and singing! I saw sides to my students I hadn't seen before! After you all left we spent a few minutes talking about how to bring our "historians' eyes" to the production, what questions to ask, how to step back from the beauty and power of the performance to uncover the layers of historical insight and interpretation. Thanks again for enriching my class and bringing such amazing theater presentations to the students! Twice!! If there are any ways that I can be of help to you and your organization, please let me know. I will be happy to "sing your praises." All good wishes,*

*Elaine Tyler May – University of Minnesota*

*Thank you, Lucas! I thought the conversation was incredibly rich and engaging. Please share our gratitude with Ansa, Maria and Rajane, as they were so gifted in helping to both bring a meaningful artistic experience into our space and facilitating thoughtful conversation. I will certainly bring these other opportunities to our CREJ team as I'm sure they would all agree that we'd love to have you back in the future. With Gratitude,*

*Todd Bratulich - Pastor for Community Engagement at First Covenant Church*

*Thank you again, and to the others who generously shared their insights with us. I really love what this program does to inspire a connection to live theater in our students! You all were fabulous!*

*Until next fall, then.*

*Cecilia Konchar Farr – St. Catherine University*

## ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Feedback Cont.



*The Women's Foundation of Minnesota was happy to welcome back Lucas Erickson, donor and Advancement Committee member and his theater outreach program On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater to our office on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for a reading and discussion of Marie and Rosetta. Joining Lucas were actor Rajané Katurah Brown, performing as Marie in the play; Wendy Knox, artistic director of Frank Theater and director of Marie and Rosetta at Park Square Theater; and Maria Asp, Neighborhood Bridges Program Director and Teaching Artist at the Children's Theater Company.*

*Lucas created On Stage to make local theater relevant to younger and nontraditional audiences by identifying their personal connections to topics presented in local theatrical productions and bringing it to them to inspire a future audience of theater-goers. Actors read scenes from the productions, and then participants engage in discussions of the play's themes, tying in current events and personal values and experiences.*

*Marie and Rosetta tells the story of singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe, celebrated for bringing fierce guitar playing and swing to gospel music. Throughout the 1930s and '40s, Sister Rosetta performed gospel in the morning and swing music at the Cotton Club at night to become a legend and major influence on rock 'n' roll's earliest icons, including Elvis, Jimi Hendrix, and Ray Charles. The play focuses on her first rehearsal in Mississippi in 1946 with a young protégée, Marie Knight, as they prepare for a tour that would establish them as one of the great duet teams in musical history.*

*Rajané and Maria read a scene from the play for WFMN staff, and then asked for our reactions. Most of us had never heard of Sister Rosetta Tharpe or Marie Knight before, which led to a discussion about the importance of bringing to the forefront the stories of women, people of color, and others whose histories haven't been widely told. WFMN believes hearing stories and perspectives directly from women and girls and underrepresented communities and elevating their voices is powerful and energizing, and a critical strategy to engage, influence, and mobilize Minnesotans to create narrative shifts in institutional practices and policies, and attitudes and beliefs.*

*The use of the arts in activism and social change is important to WFMN, which is why we are intentional in incorporating into our work, convenings, and events. WFMN staff have thoroughly enjoyed our two experiences with On Stage and are incredibly grateful to Lucas for engaging us in local productions that tie to our mission, vision, and values. We're already looking forward to the next visit!*

*Jess Kubis  
Development Manager  
The Women's Foundation of Minnesota*

## **ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Financials**

- **Maria Asp (Facilitator) - \$980**
  - \* 6 discussions (\$600), 1 planning meeting (\$100), 1 bonus discussion (\$100), facilitator prep-time (\$150) and parking expenses (\$30).
- **Ansa Akyea (Facilitator) - \$980**
  - \* 6 discussions (\$600), 1 planning meeting (\$100), 1 bonus discussion (\$100), facilitator prep-time (\$150) and parking expenses (\$30).
- **Rajané Katurah Brown (Facilitator) - \$1,280**
  - \* 10 discussions (\$1,000), 1 bonus discussion (\$100), facilitator prep-time (\$150) and parking expenses (\$30).
- **Wendy Knox (Facilitator) - \$130**
  - \* 6 discussions (\$600), facilitator prep-fee (\$150) and parking expenses (\$30).
- **Jamecia Bennett (Actress) - \$100**
  - \* 1 discussion (\$100).
- **Lucas Erickson (Project Manager) - \$1,045**
  - \* Planning and coordination of all On Stage discussions (\$500), marketing and advertising (\$350), printing and copying (\$100), meetings (\$40), miscellaneous (\$25) and parking expenses (\$30).

**TOTAL: \$5,165**

*Notes: 1 discussion (1 hour in length) is \$100, 1 rehearsal (2 hours in length) is \$100, 1 extra discussion (1 hour in length) is \$100, prep-time for the facilitator is \$150, and the coordination stipend is \$500. These fees are based on a similar program that was used at the Guthrie Theater (Creating Dialogue) and Project SUCCESS (fiscal sponsor pilot program). The program emphasizes education and is not a performance piece. The discussions will take place in college classrooms and community spaces (i.e. library room, public meeting room, etc.).*

# ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Sample Contract

## PROJECT CONTRACT

### *On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater*

This Agreement is made effective as of 10/15/16 by and between On Stage, and the following individual ("Actor")

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND PAYMENT.** Actor will receive compensation for providing the following services/expenses including but not limited to: 6 discussions (\$600), 4 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep time (\$150), and parking expenses (\$20).
2. **TOTAL PAYMENT.** On Stage will pay total compensation for services in the amount of **\$970**. Payment will be sent directly to the Actor from On Stage at the address listed above at a date postmarked on or before **11/14/16**.
3. **TERM/TERMINATION.** This Agreement shall terminate automatically on **11/14/16**.
4. **RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES.** It is understood by the parties that the Actor is an independent contractor with respect to On Stage, and not an employee or contractor of On Stage.
5. **WORK PRODUCT OWNERSHIP.** Any copyrightable works, ideas, discoveries, inventions, patents, products, or other information (collectively, the "Work Product") developed in whole or in part in connection with the Services Rendered shall be the exclusive property of On Stage.
6. **NAME AND LIKENESS.** Actor agrees to allow On Stage full use of their name, likeness, voice, testimonial, and/or portrayal in whole or in part, severally or in conjunction with other material, for any documentation and marketing purposes at any time including after determination of this agreement.
7. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties, and there are no other promises or conditions in any other agreement whether oral or written. The actor waves any liability against On Stage.
9. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable. If a court finds that any provision of this Agreement is invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited.
10. **APPLICABLE LAW.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota.

This Project Contract is executed and agreed to by:

ACTOR

(Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Date Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

ON STAGE

(Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Project Manager)

(Date Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

**ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Marketing**

**Get \$10 Tickets!**  
Select an adult ticket (\$16-\$40) and enter promo code: MAR

**MARIE and ROSETTA**

By George Brant; directed by Wendy Knox; Gary Hines, Music Director  
**PARK SQUARE THEATRE NOV 23-DEC 30**

**MARIE and ROSETTA**  
By George Brant  
Directed by Wendy Knox  
Music Direction by Gary D. Hines  
PARK SQUARE THEATRE / NOV 23 - DEC 30, 2018

**Featuring**



Jamecia Bennett  
as Sister Rosetta Tharpe



Rajani Kaurah Brown as  
Marie Knight

**\$10 TICKETS for On Stage Participants**  
Select an adult ticket (\$16-\$40) and enter promo code: MAR



**Come raise the roof with Rosetta!**  
The Godmother of Rock & Roll, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, could swing like a pendulum and still stop time. Loud as get out, she walked like Gabriel on her guitar, filling both holy rollers and rock-n-rollers with a joy that was electric.

	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
NOV		27 B	28 T/O	29 W	30 T/O	1
DEC			1	2 A/D	3 W	4 TH/ASL
			5	6	7	8
			9	10	11	12
			13	14	15	16
			17	18 C	19 C	20 C

Green: 7:30 pm; Peach: 2:00 pm; P: Preview  
B: Bargain Preview; O: Opening Night; D: Post-show Discussion

20 West 7th Place, St. Paul, MN 55102  
651.291.7005  
parksquaretheatre.org

**PARK SQUARE THEATRE**

## ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Marketing Cont.

 The East Side Freedom Library, in collaboration with On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater, invites you to a presentation and conversation:

**Marie and Rosetta**  
Monday, December 3rd, 2018, 7:00PM - 8:00PM



Join us for a stimulating theater presentation and discussion led by local theater artists Wendy Knox, Jamecia Bennett, and Maria Asp. Actors will read two scenes from *Marie and Rosetta*, a play that is being presented at the Park Square Theatre from November 23rd through December 30th. The readings will be followed by a discussion of the themes, tying in current events, personal values and narratives, and stimulating critical thinking.

Celebrated for her fierce guitar playing and swinging gospel music, singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe became a veritable legend and influenced rock musicians from Elvis to Jimi Hendrix and Ray Charles. Throughout the 1930s and '40s, Sister Rosetta performed gospel in the morning and swing music at the Cotton Club at night to inevitably become a major influence on rock 'n' roll's earliest icons. The play chronicles her first rehearsal in Mississippi in 1946 with a young protégée, Marie Knight, as they prepare for a tour that would establish them as one of the great duet teams in musical history.

On Stage is a fiscally sponsored program through Springboard for the Arts, and is designed to strengthen community support by reaching a wider "non-traditional" theater audience. This program aims to give participants a new perspective on the possibilities of live theater and in dramatic literature in general.

ESFL and On Stage have arranged for discount tickets (\$10) to the Park Square Theatre production if you would like to see the show. When you contact Park Square to order tickets by phone or online, use promo code MAR. (After December 3rd)

East Side Freedom Library, 1105 Greenbrier St.  
Free and open to all  
info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org and 651-230-3294

## Upcoming Events

### **Conversations on Racial and Economic Justice (CREJ) presents On Stage: Marie and Rosetta**

Join us in the Sanctuary today after the service for a stimulating theater presentation and discussion led by local actresses and teaching artists, Maria Asp and Rajané Brown. Maria and Rajané will read two scenes from *Marie and Rosetta*, a play that follows the life of gospel singer and fierce guitar player Sister Rosetta Tharpe, who became a veritable legend and influenced rock musicians from Elvis to Jimi Hendrix and Ray Charles. The play is being presented at the Park Square Theatre through December 30th. On Stage is a fiscally sponsored program through Springboard for the Arts, and is designed to strengthen community support by reaching a wider "non-traditional" theater audience. On Stage aims to give participants a new perspective on the possibilities of live theater and in dramatic literature in general. Discussions touch on important ethical and civic questions, as well as other themes developed in the chosen works.

On Stage has arranged for discount tickets to the Park Square Theatre production if you'd like see the full show. To reserve tickets, either go online (<https://parksquaretheatre.org/box-office/shows/2018-19/marie-and-rosetta/>), call the box office 651.291.7005, or email Rachel Wandrei (Wandrei@Parksquaretheatre.org). Use the Promo Code MAR for \$10 tickets, and mention the On Stage program with Lucas if you call or email.

ON STAGE: *Marie and Rosetta* – Photos



**ON STAGE: Marie and Rosetta – Photos**



## **ON STAGE: Total Outreach**

***An Octoroon* (Mixed Blood Theater – Fiscal Sponsor: Project SUCCESS)**

Total Participants: **196**

Total Tickets Purchased: **115**

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***A Raisin in the Sun* (Park Square Theater)**

Total Participants: **190**

Total Tickets Purchased: **100**

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***Anna in the Tropics* (Jungle Theater)**

Total Participants: **142**

Total Tickets Purchased: **73**

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***We are the Levinsons* (MN Jewish Theatre Co.)**

Total Participants: **128**

Total Tickets Purchased: **30**

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***Pike St.* (Pillsbury House Theatre)**

Total Participants: **163**

Total Tickets Purchased: **25**

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***Revolt. She said. Revolt again.* (Frank Theatre)**

Total Participants: **296**

Total Tickets Purchased: **100**

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***Collected Stories* (MN Jewish Theatre Co.)**

Total Participants: **199**

Total Tickets Purchased: **42**

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***The Lorax* (Children's Theatre Co.)**

Total Participants: **483**

Total Tickets Purchased: **55**

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***Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (Jungle Theater)**

Total Participants: **155**

Total Tickets Purchased: **28**

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***West of Central* (Pillsbury House Theatre)**

Total Participants: **399**

Total Tickets Purchased: **150**

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***Marie and Rosetta* (Park Square Theatre)**

Total Participants: **313**

Total Tickets Purchased: **140**

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**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 2,664**

**TOTAL TICKETS PURCHASED: 858**

**\* 32% OF THE STUDENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE HAVE VISITED SAW THE PLAY THAT WE DISCUSSED.**

## **The Need For A Younger Theater Audience**

NEA 2012 Survey: The Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA) is the largest and most comprehensive survey of U.S. arts participation, with a total sample size exceeding 37,000 adults, ages 18 and over.

- Adults who attended performing arts or visited museums as children were three to four times as likely to see shows or visit museums as adults. Exposure to the arts in childhood turns out to be a stronger predictor of adult arts participation than education, gender, age, or income.
- Technology is a great enabler of arts creation and participation. In 2012, nearly three-quarters of American adults—about 167 million people—used electronic media to view or listen to art.
- 12.3 percent of adults in 2002 said they had attended a non-musical play in the past year; only 8.3 percent of adults in 2012 could say the same.
- The average age of those attending classical music performances, the ballet, jazz concerts and plays is increasing. This is not just because the median age of the general population is creeping up as well; it is the result of one generation of audience members not being adequately replaced by the next.
- The average age of the theatergoer for touring Broadway is 52 (according to The Broadway League).

June 17, 2012, Boston Globe:

“The Boston area is home to an estimated 250,000 college students from September to June. In other words, there is a huge population of 18-to-22-year-olds at more than 65 colleges and universities, quite a few of whom are eager, even desperate, for something to do off-campus on the weekends. Many who go to college here settle down in the area after graduation; they are the logical foundation of Boston theater’s future. So, theoretically, Boston should be the perfect laboratory for experiments in how to attract young adults to the theater, right? ... Intellectual curiosity and a spirit of cultural adventure are, or should be, cornerstones of higher education” (Don Aucoin).