

On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater

Lizzie: The Rock Musical

October 9 – November 8, 2025

**Participating Theater:
Open Eye Theatre**

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

Overview: On Stage raises awareness of the theater offerings in the Twin Cities to academic classes and groups. On Stage brings actors to college classrooms and community settings around the Twin Cities. Local actors and students read scenes from a play in current local production followed by a lively discussion of the themes tying in current events, personal values, and narratives, and stimulating critical thinking. Subsequently attending the full play is encouraged. The purpose of the program is to enhance in-class learning, make local theater relevant to younger and non-traditional audiences, and to lay the groundwork for building future theater attendances. Discussions cover relevant social, political, and cultural topics that come up in Twin Cities plays including gender and racial violence and inequity, LGBTQ+ discrimination, cultural diaspora and alienation and aging.

Since On Stage was launched in the fall of 2016, On Stage has partnered with fifteen theater companies in the Twin Cities, covering thirty-eight plays. Of the plays that On Stage has promoted/discussed in classrooms, over **10,000** students and community members have been exposed to new theater and new theater venues, and over **25%** of these students and community members paid to see the show that we were promoting/discussing. On Stage continues to focus on partnering with more small/mid-sized theaters that don't have the resources for their own outreach efforts.

On Stage has partnered with the following Theaters: Mixed Blood Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Jungle Theater, Six Points Theater, Pillsbury House Theatre, Frank Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Yellow Tree Theatre, New Dawn Theatre, Theater Mu, Exposed Brick Theatre, Ten Thousand Things, Open Eye Theatre, History Theatre and Theater Latté Da.

On Stage has facilitated discussions with the following Colleges and Universities: St. Thomas University, University of Minnesota, St. Catherine University, Metro State University, Augsburg College, Macalester College, Concordia University, Hamline University, Bethel University, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Normandale Community College, North Hennepin Community College, Hennepin Technical College, Century College, Inver Hills Community College, Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies.

On Stage has facilitated discussions with the following Departments: Communications, Sociology, Theater, English - Creative Writing, English - Literature, History, Education, Psychology, Music, Family Social Sciences, Leadership, Linguistics, Law, Environmental Science, Political Science, Women and Gender Studies, African American Studies, Addiction Studies, Culinary Arts.

Note: When Covid hit in March 2020, On Stage launched a new education experience for students. This online program, OnStage/OnLine, was a series of discussions based on plays that were 'in the works' to be produced and performed in the Twin Cities in the future, designed to: stimulate an interest in live theater, examine the cultural context of a play, and, of course, to have fun! We have since returned to in-person classes but have been facilitating both in-person and online discussions and we will continue to have both teaching options moving forward.

ON STAGE: *Lizzie: The Rock Musical* – Schedule

1. Century College - SOC 1020: Intro to Sociology (CLASS #1) - Corey Culver - Wednesday October 15, 9:15 - 10:30AM. (30 STUDENTS)

* This course is a survey of sociology's major theoretical perspectives and research methods. Basic concepts include culture, socialization, groups, organizations, deviance, social institutions, change, and inequalities based on class, race, and gender.

2. Century College - SOC 1020: Intro to Sociology (CLASS #2) - Corey Culver - Wednesday October 15, 10:45 - 12:00PM. (30 STUDENTS)

* This course is a survey of sociology's major theoretical perspectives and research methods. Basic concepts include culture, socialization, groups, organizations, deviance, social institutions, change, and inequalities based on class, race, and gender.

3. Normandale Community College - COMM 1121: Intercultural Communication - Willie Johnson - Wednesday October 15, 2:00 - 3:00PM. (25 STUDENTS)

* Intercultural communication skills are increasingly valuable in today's global society.

4. Hamline University - CJFS 1400: Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice (CLASS #1) - Caity Curry - Friday October 17, 10:20 - 11:20AM. (18 STUDENTS)

* The course provides an overview of diversity and its importance in criminological studies and in the criminal justice system.

5. University of St. Thomas - THTR 111: Intro to Theater (CLASS #1) - Shanan Custer - Friday October 17, 12:15 - 1:20PM. (18 STUDENTS)

* This course provides a foundation in theater and drama for students who have experienced theater first-hand as well as for those who have never seen a play.

6. University of St. Thomas - SOCI 354: Sex and Society - Patricia Maddox - Monday October 20, 2:00 - 3:00PM. (16 STUDENTS)

* Sexuality as a social construction is explored with a specific focus on cultural and institutional influences including the family, economy, religion, government, and the media.

7. University of St. Thomas - THTR 297: Theater Performance/Production (CLASS #2) - Shanan Custer - Monday October 20, 3:30 - 4:30PM. (10 STUDENTS)

* Students will produce and present a play while they learn about key aspects of introductory theater.

8. Hamline University - CJFS 3750: Theories of Criminal Behavior (CLASS #2) - Caity Curry - Tuesday October 21, 9:40 - 10:30AM. (18 STUDENTS)

* The focus of this course are theories of crime and of criminal behavior and the contexts (individual and societal characteristics, family, and neighborhood) associated with crime and offending.

9. Saint Paul College - CULINARY ARTS CLASS - "LOVE AT FIRST BITE: A Blood-Soaked Halloween Treat!" - Jason Ross - Tuesday October 21, 11:15 - 12:30PM. (18 STUDENTS)

* Students explore various aspects of quantity food production in a fast-paced, high-volume food service setting.

10. North Hennepin Community College - ENGL 1900: Intro to Creative Writing - Farrah, Kaelie - Wednesday October 22, 2:20 - 3:20PM. (12 STUDENTS)

* This class is designed for students who want to try creative writing, perhaps for the first time, and learn more about the creative process.

11. Augsburg University - COM 120: Mass Media and Popular Culture - Kristen Chamberlain - Thursday October 23, 10:10 - 11:10AM. (20 STUDENTS)

* This course is a survey of the mass media in popular culture.

12. Century College - HIST 1032: U.S. History to 1865 - Jacob Jurss - Thursday October 23, 12:30 - 1:45PM. (22 STUDENTS)

* This course surveys U.S. history from pre-colonial Indigenous America through the Civil War.

13. University of Minnesota - ENGW 1101: Intro to Creative Writing - Stephanie Liang - Friday October 24, 9:05 - 10:05AM. (20 STUDENTS)

* In this course, we will explore the fundamentals of creative writing.

ON STAGE: *Lizzie: The Rock Musical* – Numbers/Survey

Total number of students and community members who participated in the discussions: 257

Total number of tickets purchased to see the play after our discussions: 54

1. Have you seen a play before?

YES – 42 (88%) NO – 6

2. Have you seen an OPEN EYE THEATRE play?

YES – 2 NO – 46 (96%)

3. Do you feel more inclined to see this OPEN EYE THEATRE play after participating in the discussion?

YES – 47 (100%) NO – 0

4. Do you feel more inclined to see other OPEN EYE THEATRE plays after participating in this discussion?

YES – 38 (83%) NO – 8

5. Did this discussion add to your fuller understanding to what you have been discussing in class?

YES – 48 (100%) NO – 0

Note: This survey was issued to participants in four in-class discussions.

Note: Total tickets purchased was confirmed by the Open Eye Theatre Box Office.

ON STAGE: Lizzie: The Rock Musical – Agenda/Topics

LUCAS will welcome everyone and say why we are there/what On Stage is. Today we are going to get you moving around and discussing some of the issues raised in the play, and we will give you a short summary of the play, who wrote it, and what **OPEN EYE THEATRE** is. ASK STUDENTS: Have you been to a play in the last five years? What did you see? Where did you see it?

EDUCATORS will introduce themselves and then lead a game!

OPTION 1: MURDER GAME!

HOW TO PLAY: Everyone shuts their eyes and puts their heads down while an **EDUCATOR** walks around and touches someone - they are now the secret murderer, who then "kills" other players by winking at them (OR SHAKING HANDS). Those who are winked at must pretend to die and leave the circle, while the remaining players try to identify the murderer by watching for suspicious behavior. The game ends when someone correctly accuses the murderer, or the game continues until all but the murderer are "dead".

EDUCATORS + LUCAS will ask students to GET IN A GROUP OF 3 OR 4 & DISCUSS:

1. **WHAT IS A LEGEND OR TALE YOU KNOW/REMEMBER AS A CHILD? WHO TOLD IT TO YOU?**
2. **WHAT IS A SONG OR RHYME YOU REMEMBER AS A CHILD? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? CAN YOU SING IT?** Who sings/plays an instrument/reads sheet music?
3. **WHERE IS YOUR PRIVATE SANCTUARY (WHERE DO YOU FEEL THE SAFEST)?**
4. **WHO IS A STRONG FEMALE IN YOUR LIFE? Why are they powerful?**
5. **HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO CHOP UP YOUR FAMILY WITH AN AXE?** Lol. Just kidding.

EDUCATORS + LUCAS will tell students to VOTE WITH YOUR BODY

1. **I AM OBSESSED WITH TRUE CRIME. HEAR FROM SOME STUDENTS?**
2. **IF I KNEW A “DEADLY SECRET” THAT WOULD INCRIMINATE MY BEST FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER, I WOULD TELL SOMEBODY. HEAR FROM SOME STUDENTS?**

EDUCATORS + LUCAS will now lead MATCHING SENTENCES/LINES (NOTE: These are located on the page after the agenda). Pass out lines from the play - ask students to read the line and find the other people who have the same line as you. Next, find the other group you think is the 2nd half of this song/sentence. Now in your full group, have a quick discussion with your group about what this line means (WHO, WHAT, WHERE). Hear from each group.

EDUCATORS will ask students WHO KNOWS LIZZIE BORDEN? Then give a quick summary of the play, who wrote it, and what **OPEN EYE THEATER** is.

NOTE: USE THIS AS A REFERENCE - DO NOT READ IT OUT LOUD - DESCRIBE THE PLAY IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

By Steven Cheslik-deMeyer, Tim Maner, and Alan Stevens Hewitt. Lizzie The Musical is a rock musical opera about the girl who hacked her parents to death (Lizzie Borden) in 1892 in Fall River, Massachusetts. Written in 2016, the play explores themes of queer female desire, feminine rage, repression and the magnetic allure celebrity crime exerts on the American psyche. Developmental Psychology, Life-Span Development and Family Social Science classes would be a great fit for digging into 'where it all went wrong' in this 'perfect' looking American family. The play has a similar style to Hedwig and the Angry Inch and is also a well-timed Halloween scare!

EDUCATORS + LUCAS will ASK 4 BRAVE READERS to read SCENE #1 from the play (Pg. 4 - 6).

Questions: What's that about? What did you hear? This sets up the play. What do you make of the structure/repetition?

EDUCATORS + LUCAS will ASK 4 BRAVE READERS to read SCENE #2 from the play (Pg. 37 - 39).

Questions: What's that about? What did you hear? WHAT THE FUCK NOW, LIZZIE?! REPETITION! SWEARING! How to say WHAT THE FUCK in different ways? Who has ever done something BAD and not want your parents or guardians to find out about it? NOW **LUCAS** WILL PLAY THE SONG ON THE MINI SPEAKER. How was it different listening to it in a song vs reading it? How do you take an event and turn it into a song (maybe ask the musicians in the room)?

LUCAS will pass around a survey to students, how to see the play for \$15, and ask educators to plug their work.

ON STAGE: Lizzie: The Rock Musical – Feedback

Hey Lucas,

Thank you all so much for your time and engagement with students. I think this is an experience students will remember long after this class ends. Thanks again and looking forward to collaborating with y'all again at some point in the future!

Take care,

Caity Curry – Professor @ Hamline University

Hi Lucas!

It was a very good class last week! The students really got into it and your guys always do such a good job of interacting with them! I'll send along some of their written feedback soon! Looking forward to the Spring plays!

Willie Johnson – Professor @ Normandale Community College

Hey Lucas,

The event showed how food can be part of a much larger and important conversation, especially when incorporated into topics like politics and culture. Sometimes we take ourselves seriously at school with pursuing goals and learning outcomes, so a little fun for fun's sake is a refreshing way for our students to gain new perspectives. One student said to me, "It was interesting to think of cooking and how it applies to a theme," and another student said, "This was a great opportunity to expand our full creativity."

Jason Ross – Professor @ Saint Paul College

ON STAGE: *Lizzie: The Rock Musical* – Financials

- **Warren Bowles (Facilitator) - \$1630**
 - * 13 discussions (\$1300), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$30).
- **Maria Asp (Facilitator) - \$930**
 - * 6 discussions (\$600), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$30).
- **Patrick Bailey (Facilitator) - \$930**
 - * 6 discussions (\$600), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$30).
- **Valencia Proctor (Facilitator) - \$1230**
 - * 9 discussions (\$900), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$30).
- **Aimee Bryant (Facilitator) - \$1030**
 - * 7 discussions (\$700), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$30).
- **Ninchai Nok-Chiclana (Facilitator) - \$1230**
 - * 9 discussions (\$900), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$30).
- **Lucas Erickson (Project Manager) - \$670**
 - * Coordination fee (\$500), marketing, printing and copying (\$100), meetings (\$40), and parking stipend (\$30).

TOTAL: \$7,650

Notes: 1 discussion (1 hour in length) is \$100, 1 planning meeting (2 hours in length) is \$100, facilitator prep-fee is \$20 - \$150, the parking stipend is \$20, 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-person and online for the foreseeable future.

ON STAGE: Lizzie: The Rock Musical – Sample Contract

PROJECT CONTRACT

On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater

This Agreement is made effective as of **2/9/22** 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), 2 two-hour rehearsals (\$200), facilitator prep fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$20).
2. **TOTAL PAYMENT.** On Stage will pay total compensation for services in the amount of **\$920**. Payment will be sent directly to the Actor from On Stage at the address listed above at a date postmarked on or before **3/9/22**.
3. **TERM/TERMINATION.** This Agreement shall terminate automatically on **3/9/22**.
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) _____

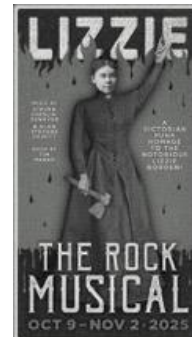
ON STAGE

(Printed Name) _____ (Project Manager)

(Date Signed) _____

(Signature) _____

ON STAGE: *Lizzie: The Rock Musical* – Social Media



LIZZIE: The Rock Musical is the punk-rock reimagining of the gripping true-crime case of Lizzie Borden, exploring the heady and heated events leading up to the infamous trial that became a media sensation.

Brought to life by a powerhouse cast and a searing live band, **LIZZIE** is a suspenseful, queer, and rebellious new musical laced with political depth and a mischievous sense of humor that'll keep you on the edge of your seat.

Featuring Lux Mortenson, Abilene Olson, Marley Ritchie & Grace Hillmyer
Joel Sass - Director & Set Design Amanda Weiss - Music Director & Keyboards



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The collage consists of 20 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The photos capture various moments from the production of 'Lizzie Borden'. Key elements include:

- Top Row:**
 - Students in a classroom setting, some standing and some seated at tables.
 - A student in a white, textured costume (Lizzie Borden) standing in front of a whiteboard. The whiteboard lists cast members: LUCAS, LIZZIE, WHERRE, and VIKI.
 - Students seated at long tables in a classroom, looking towards the front.
- Second Row:**
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in costume, including a student in a white, textured costume, posing for a photo.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
- Third Row:**
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - A group of students posing for a photo, with one student in a white, textured costume.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
- Fourth Row:**
 - A sign for 'LIZZIE BORDEN THE MUSICAL' with the date '11-2-15' and a list of cast members.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
- Fifth Row:**
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - A student in a white, textured costume (Lizzie Borden) standing in front of a whiteboard.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
- Sixth Row:**
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - A student in a white, textured costume (Lizzie Borden) standing in front of a whiteboard.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
- Seventh Row:**
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - A student in a white, textured costume (Lizzie Borden) standing in front of a whiteboard.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
- Eighth Row:**
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - A student in a white, textured costume (Lizzie Borden) standing in front of a whiteboard.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.
 - Students in a classroom, with one student standing and addressing the group.

ON STAGE: Total Outreach

An Octoroon (Mixed Blood Theatre – Fiscal Sponsor: Project SUCCESS)
Total Participants: **196** Total Tickets Purchased: **115**

A Raisin in the Sun (Park Square Theater)
Total Participants: **190** Total Tickets Purchased: **100**

Anna in the Tropics (Jungle Theater)
Total Participants: **143** Total Tickets Purchased: **73**

We are the Levinsons (MN Jewish Theatre Co.)
Total Participants: **128** Total Tickets Purchased: **30**

Pike St. (Pillsbury House Theatre)
Total Participants: **163** Total Tickets Purchased: **25**

Revolt, She said. Revolt again. (Frank Theatre)
Total Participants: **286** Total Tickets Purchased: **100**

Collected Stories (MN Jewish Theatre Co.)
Total Participants: **199** Total Tickets Purchased: **42**

The Lorax (Children's Theatre Co.)
Total Participants: **483** Total Tickets Purchased: **55**

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill (Jungle Theater)
Total Participants: **155** Total Tickets Purchased: **28**

West of Central (Pillsbury House Theatre)
Total Participants: **299** Total Tickets Purchased: **150**

Marie and Rosetta (Park Square Theatre)
Total Participants: **313** Total Tickets Purchased: **140**

Actually (MN Jewish Theatre Co.)
Total Participants: **264** Total Tickets Purchased: **107**

Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Theater Latté Da)
Total Participants: **172** Total Tickets Purchased: **54**

Small Mouth Sounds (Jungle Theater)
Total Participants: **124** Total Tickets Purchased: **11**

Escaped Alone & Here We Go. (Frank Theatre)
Total Participants: **392** Total Tickets Purchased: **113**

Aubergine (Park Square Theatre)
Total Participants: **371** Total Tickets Purchased: **81**

Skeleton Crew (Yellow Tree Theatre and New Dawn Theatre)
Total Participants: **424** Total Tickets Purchased: **60**

Interstate (Mixed Blood Theatre)
Total Participants: **160** Total Tickets Purchased: **33**

OnStage/OnLine Outreach during Covid:

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (Frank Theatre); *The Most Beautiful Home... Maybe* (Mixed Blood Theatre);
Nina Simone: Four Women (Pillsbury House Theatre); *Animate* (Mixed Blood Theatre); *the ball-jean stories* (Pillsbury House Theatre)

Man of God (Theater Ma)
Total Participants: **177** Total Tickets Purchased: **35**

Passing Strange (Yellow Tree Theatre and New Dawn Theatre)
Total Participants: **192** Total Tickets Purchased: **20**

Twelve Angry Men (Theater Latté Da)
Total Participants: **95** Total Tickets Purchased: **21**

Freeing Assata and A Love Story in 8 Scenes (Exposed Brick Theatre)
Total Participants: **265** Total Tickets Purchased: **60**

Mlima's Tale (Ten Thousand Things)
Total Participants: **246** Total Tickets Purchased: **43**

Diesel Heart (History Theatre)
Total Participants: **374** Total Tickets Purchased: **159**

The Courtroom (Jungle Theatre)
Total Participants: **56** Total Tickets Purchased: **40**

The Chinese Lady (Open Eye Theatre)
Total Participants: **247** Total Tickets Purchased: **24**

Passage (Pillsbury House Theatre & Exposed Brick Theatre)
Total Participants: **251** Total Tickets Purchased: **77**

A Unique Assignment (History Theatre)
Total Participants: **294** Total Tickets Purchased: **24**

The Color Purple (Theater Latté Da)
Total Participants: **313** Total Tickets Purchased: **36**

Behind the Sun (History Theatre)
Total Participants: **541** Total Tickets Purchased: **97**

Behind the Sun (History Theatre)
Total Participants: **541** Total Tickets Purchased: **97**

Sanctuary City (Frank Theatre)
Total Participants: **466** Total Tickets Purchased: **147**

Invisible Fences (Open Eye Theatre)
Total Participants: **319** Total Tickets Purchased: **21**

Burn & Dash + Quinceañera (Exposed Brick Theatre)
Total Participants: **493** Total Tickets Purchased: **95**

Lizbie: The Rock Musical (Open Eye Theatre)
Total Participants: **257** Total Tickets Purchased: **54**

TOTAL ON STAGE PARTICIPANTS: 9,165
(TOTAL ONSTAGE/ONLINE PARTICIPANTS: **1,417**)
TOTAL TICKETS PURCHASED: 2,282

*** 25% OF THE STUDENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE VISITED IN CLASSES SAW THE PLAY THAT WAS DISCUSSED.**