



On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater

Man of God

February 18 – March 6, 2022

Participating Theater: Theater Mu

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 eleven theater companies in the Twin Cities, covering twenty two plays. Of these two plays that On Stage has promoted/discussed in classrooms, over **5000** students have been exposed to new theater and new theater venues, and over **29%** of these students 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, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Pillsbury House Theatre, Frank Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Yellow Tree Theatre, New Dawn Theatre, Theater Mu, 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, 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.

When Covid hit in March 2020, On Stage launched a new education experience for students. This online program, OnStage/OnLine, is a series of discussions based on plays that are '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 of these teaching options moving forward.

ON STAGE: *Man of God* – Discussion Schedule

1. St. Catherine University - SOCI 2350: Asian American Identities - Hui Niu Wilcox - Tuesday February 22, 9:50 - 10:50AM. ONLINE CLASS (20 STUDENTS)

* The Asian American Identities course will engage students in a critical analysis of the multiple, fluid and intersecting identities of members of the Asian diaspora.

2. Normandale Community College - ENGW 2114: Play and Screen Writing - Kris Bigalk – Tuesday February 22, 2:50 - 3:50PM. ONLINE CLASS (15 STUDENTS)

* This course focuses on the writing and study of contemporary drama. Students will compose original plays and/or screenplays, respond to classmates, and be introduced to form and technique in drama.

3. University of Minnesota - ENGW 1101: Introduction to Creative Writing – May Lee-Yang - Monday February 28, 1:25 - 2:25PM. ONLINE CLASS (25 STUDENTS)

* In this course, we will explore the fundamentals of creative writing. We will start by looking at the building blocks of good imaginative writing: image, voice, character, setting, story, and revision.

4. University of St. Thomas - THTR 223: History of American Theater - Shanan Custer - Monday February 28, 3:25 - 4:25PM. IN-PERSON CLASS (25 STUDENTS)

* Foundation in theater and drama for the non-major beginning student

5. East Side Freedom Library - Community Discussion - Peter Rachleff - Monday February 28, 7:00 - 8:00PM. ONLINE EVENT (10 PARTICIPANTS)

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

6. St. Paul College – CULINARY ARTS CLASS - Jason Ross - Tuesday March 1, 11:00AM - 12:30PM. IN-PERSON CLASS (20 STUDENTS)

* Students explore various aspects of quantity food production in a fast-paced, high-volume food service setting. Food concept: REVENGE IS A DISH BEST SERVED COLD.

7. Normandale Community College - COMM 1131: Intercultural Communication - Willie Johnson - Tuesday February 22, 2:00 - 3:00PM. IN-PERSON CLASS (25 STUDENTS)

* The primary purposes of this course are to raise awareness of cultural values, beliefs, norms, and biases and address how culture affects communication choices on the interpersonal, group, cross-cultural and global levels.

8. Augsburg University - PSY 493: Seminar - Contemporary Issues - Alex Ajayi - Tuesday March 1, 6:00 - 7:00PM. IN-PERSON CLASS (20 STUDENTS)

* The class deals with contemporary issues seminar with an emphasis on the intersections between psychology and current social issues.

9. North Hennepin Community College - TFT 2550: Acting II - Joy Dolo - Thursday March 3, 9:30 - 10:30AM. IN-PERSON CLASS (5 STUDENTS)

* Continued exploration of the intuitive and imaginative techniques from Acting I with added scene work by American and European playwrights.

10. Augsburg University - ML 538: Communication Skills for Leadership (NOTE: Students from EDC 571: Navigating Change in Education and other ML students will join the discussion) - Carolyn Evans - Thursday March 3, 6:00 - 7:00PM. ONLINE CLASS (12 STUDENTS)

* This course is designed to provide background in rhetoric as well as practice in speaking, writing, and presentation skills. Students will perform communicative tasks in a variety of genres and will receive feedback on the effectiveness of their performances.

ON STAGE: *Man of God* – Participants, Tickets Purchased & Survey Results

Total number of students and community members who participated in the discussions: 177

Total number of tickets purchased after our discussions: 35

1. Have you seen a play before?

YES – 67 (85%) NO – 12

2. Have you seen a THEATER MU play?

YES – 6 NO – 68 (92%)

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

YES – 69 (99%) NO – 1

4. Do you feel more inclined to see this THEATER MU play after participating in the discussion?

YES – 63 (82%) NO – 14

5. Do you feel more inclined to see other THEATER MU theater productions after participating in this discussion?

YES – 64 (90%) NO – 7

Note: This survey was issued to participants in six of the ten discussions.

Note: Total tickets purchased was confirmed by the Theater Mu Box Office (16 used a University of Minnesota email; 10 wrote “On Stage”; 5 used a North Hennepin Community College email; 2 used an Augsburg email; 1 used a Normandale Community College email; 1 used a St. Catherine email).

ON STAGE: Man of God – Discussion Agenda/Topics

IF ONLINE, Lucas will start with POLL #1. Lucas will welcome everyone and say why we are there/what On Stage is. **IF ONLINE, Lucas will then lay down some ground rules (if you have a question, let us know by raising your hand, writing in the chat, or respectfully unmute yourself and ask; please keep your video feed on during this discussion if you are able to; there are closed captions up, so feel free to turn them off; BE OPEN TO TRYING NEW THINGS! We want to engage you and we want to hear from you);** Today we will give you a short summary of the play (“ONE HIDDEN CAMERA. FOUR IDEAS OF JUSTICE”; “A FUNNY FEMINIST THRILLER”), who the playwright is, what THEATER MU is, then we will ask some of you to read a scene or two from the play, and discuss it. **DISCLOSURE - Sensitive subject matter, so if you feel uncomfortable at any time, take care of yourself and feel free to not participate and you can always leave the room or sign off of Zoom.**

EDUCATORS will introduce themselves. **EDUCATORS** will tell students to STAND UP so you can VOTE WITH YOUR BODY (**IF ONLINE, PUT YOUR FACE CLOSE TO THE CAMERA IF YOU AGREE or use a THUMBS UP emoji, and PUT YOUR FACE AWAY FROM THE CAMERA IF YOU DISAGREE or use a THUMBS DOWN emoji**): 1. HAVE YOU EVER TRAVELED TO AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE? Where did you go? 2. IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CONTROL YOUR IMAGE ON THE INTERNET? Why? 3. WHEN YOU SEE OR EXPERIENCE SOMETHING WRONG, DO YOU SPEAK UP? Ask some students to share why.

EDUCATORS will then ask students to FIND A PARTNER (or group of 3) **IF ONLINE, ROCK THE CHAT** and DISCUSS: 1. WHO ARE SOME POWERFUL CHARACTERS IN BOOKS? 2. WHO ARE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU TRUST? 3. WHO ARE PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE TOLD TO TRUST? Have students share with the group after we discuss all three questions.

EDUCATORS will now lead A GAME.

OPTION A: STATUS GAME: Give students a number (1-10, or 1-5 depending on the size of the class and IF A BIG CLASS, the other students are the audience) - tape it to their back - and have them walk around the room. NOTE: 1 = low status, 10 = high status). They don't know what number they are and they need to try to figure out what number they represent based on how other students react to you based on your number. Then try to line up in order. HOW WAS THAT? HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL? IF ONLINE, MESSAGE ONE STUDENT AND GIVE THEM A NUMBER TO “ACT OUT” AND HAVE THE REST OF THE GROUP TRY TO GUESS THEIR NUMBER. DO THIS A FEW TIMES.

OPTION C: GREAT GAME OF BOWER (Boal):

Place a set of four chairs (all the same) in a row, along with a water bottle in front of a seated group. Ask for a volunteer to silently arrange the 4 chairs and a water bottle in such a way that, in their opinion, one chair has more power than all the other chairs. Explain that any of the objects can be moved in any direction or placed on top of each other, but none of the objects can be removed altogether from the space. Once the chairs have been arranged, ask that volunteer to return to their seat and to not reveal his/her thinking behind the arrangement. Next, ask the group to interpret the image made by the chairs and water bottle: *Describe the way the chairs are positioned. What does that position represent or make you think of? Why do you say that? What is another interpretation of this position? Which chair has the most power? Why?* Have another volunteer repeat the activity. *What are some of the different ways we saw power represented in this activity? What makes someone or something powerful?*

EDUCATORS will ask students to WALK AROUND THE ROOM and point elbows at somebody - a partner (**IF ONLINE, this will be a group discussion**). Think of a time in your life that you felt powerful. How did that feel? What was the circumstance?

ON STAGE: *Man of God* – Discussion Agenda/Topics Cont.

EDUCATORS will give a quick summary of the play, (**IF ONLINE, Lucas will SHARE HIS SCREEN to see pics of the play**), who the playwright is (Anna Moench (pronounced MENCH)) and what is **THEATER MU**. “Theater Mu produces performances born of arts, equity, and justice from the heart of the Asian American experience. Theater Mu celebrates and empowers Asian Americans through theater... [giving] voice and cultural profile to the Asian American community.” **If you feel comfortable, say something about the increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans this past year (i.e. Atlanta murders, the intersection of race and sexuality).**

The play is based on true events. “For many involved in the KCM (KOREAN AMERICAN CAMPUS MISSION) incident, which involved allegations that a pastor engaged in inappropriate conduct during the mission trip, this was their first such experience dealing with moral failure among ministry leaders.”- Christianity Daily^[SEP]. Talk about reading a headline in the news and then creating your own story based on it.

DESCRIPTION: *During a mission trip to Bangkok, the four members of a Korean Christian girls' youth group discover that their revered pastor has hidden a camera in their hotel bathroom. Their communal rage and disillusionment fuel increasingly violent revenge fantasies amidst the no-holds-barred neon bubblegum sex-tourism mecca of Bangkok. Anna Moench delves into that moment when girls recognize the male gaze and decide they're definitely gonna do something about it. The play brings up issues of keeping secrets, being silent, wanting to be in a tribe - to feel accepted, power dynamics, knowing what to do and when, how to act when something is wrong, a revenge fantasy, and of course the trauma surrounding sexual harassment.* Characters (who are they/describe/read character descriptions) - “*Everyone is Korean American; These are teenage girls. Pacing is fast. Missing periods at the end of lines indicate that they are stepping on one another's lines, finishing each other's thoughts, interrupting one another, etc.^[SEP]” Pastor: “40s, a tall man, **we never see his face until we do**”. **SUGGESTIVE POWER. TRUSTED POWER** (trust in a system that has been in place for a long time).

ASK FOUR BRAVE READERS to read SCENE #1 from the play (Pg.1 - 4). **SET UP THE SCENE AND READ CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH CHARACTER.** **IF ONLINE, Lucas will SHARE HIS SCREEN to see the scene we are reading.**

Questions: What's that about? What did you hear? **MOMENT OF DISCOVERY.** Initial reactions. **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

ASK TWO BRAVE READERS to read SCENE #2 from the play (Pg.69 - 71). **SET UP THE SCENE AND READ CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH CHARACTER.** **IF ONLINE, Lucas will SHARE HIS SCREEN to see the scene we are reading.**

Questions: What's this scene about? What did you hear? **JEN'S FANTASY ABOUT WHAT SHE WANTS TO SAY TO THE PASTOR.** Think of a time where you have been in a situation where you wanted to say something **TRUE**, but you didn't (give them a few examples). Does anyone want to share?

IF TIME, ASK FOUR BRAVE READERS to read SCENE #3 from the play (Pg.56 - 59). **SET UP THE SCENE AND READ CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS FOR EACH CHARACTER.** **IF ONLINE, Lucas will SHARE HIS SCREEN to see the scene we are reading.**

Questions: What's that about? What did you hear? **INSTAGRAM DRAMA - TO FOLLOW OR NOT TO FOLLOW.** What social media platforms are you on? What do you use them for (to communicate, to promote yourself, make your friends jealous)? **VYING FOR ACCEPTANCE.** We all want to be in a tribe - to feel accepted – and once we find it, we don't want to let go.

Wrap up! **Questions?** **IF ONLINE, Lucas will end with POLL #2.** **Lucas** will tell students how to see the play with **PAY AS YOU ARE** pricing. **IF ONLINE, Lucas will SHARE HIS SCREEN to show everyone how to see the play with PAY AS YOU ARE pricing.** **ALSO, ask educators to plug work they are doing.**

ON STAGE: Man of God – Feedback

Hi Lucas,

That was so much fun! Thank you so much for a wonderful presentation. I hope to have you back next fall or spring -- I'm teaching several creative writing classes and I just love what you and your organization are doing.... We have a lot of students who have experienced trauma, and all of them express it (or don't express it) in various ways. I especially appreciated the sensitivity all of you showed towards those students. The arts are a way for them to process and to feel less alone and talking about and engaging with the tough stuff really helps, especially when done so skillfully. Again, thank you so much for coming to our class and sharing the play with us.

Kris Bigalk – Normandale Community College

Wow! What a great talkback yesterday! They were all so open, so intelligent, and so supportive of one another. Kudos to the professor. I'm sure she has created an environment where her students feel brave enough to speak up like that, even if speaking isn't their strong suit.

Clay Man Soo – On Stage Teaching Artist

Hi Lucas,

Thank you for your email. I think the session went really well, considering that we had to do it virtually! The students really warmed up to you and the teaching artists! I really loved [the students'] reading of the script. I met with them on Thursday and all of them expressed interest in seeing the play.

Hui Niu Wilcox – St. Catherine University

Hey Lucas!

It was another great session and it touched upon many things that are an integral part of what we are studying in the course! Both you and Sun Mee did a wonderful job and had super rapport with the students (and me too!). Thanks again!

Willie Johnson – Normandale Community College

Thanks for the note, Lucas. I thought class went very well and it is always great to have more experiential learning opportunities in a seminar class like that. Thank you for coming!

Alex Ajayi – Augsburg University

ON STAGE: Man of God – Financials

- **Sun Mee Chomet (Facilitator) - \$1120**
 - * 8 discussions (\$800), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$20).
- **Maria Asp (Facilitator) - \$920**
 - * 6 discussions (\$600), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$20).
- **Ansa Akyea (Facilitator) - \$620**
 - * 4 discussions (\$400), 1 planning meeting (\$100), facilitator prep-fee (\$100), and parking stipend (\$20).
- **Clay Man Soo (Facilitator) - \$670**
 - * 3 discussions (\$300), 2 planning meetings (\$200), facilitator prep-fee (\$150), and parking stipend (\$20).
- **Meghan Kreidler (Facilitator) - \$670**
 - * 4 discussions (\$400), 1 planning meeting (\$100), facilitator prep-fee (\$150), and parking stipend (\$20).
- **Lucas Erickson (Project Manager/Facilitator) - \$660**
 - * Coordination fee (\$500), marketing, printing and copying (\$100), meetings (\$40), and parking stipend (\$20).

TOTAL: \$4,660

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

ON STAGE: *Man of God* – 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

ON STAGE

(Printed Name) _____

(Printed Name) _____ (Project Manager)

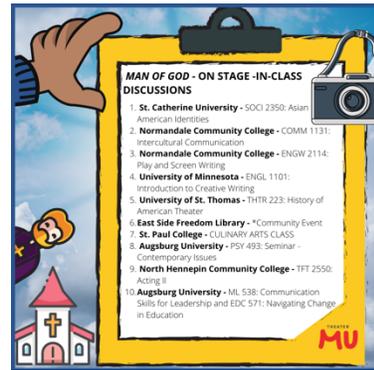
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(Date Signed) _____

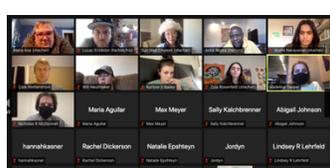
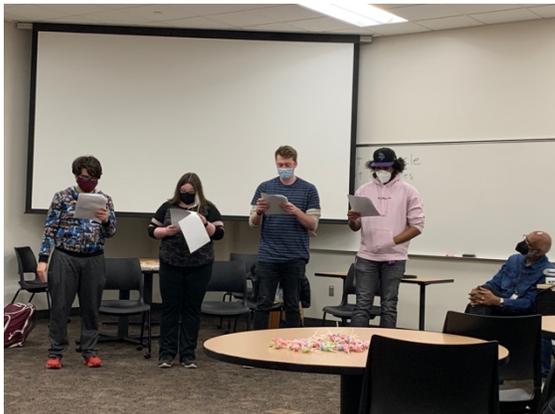
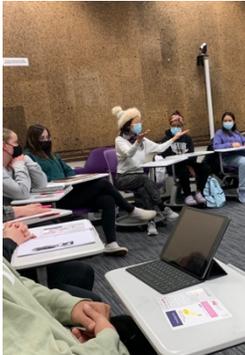
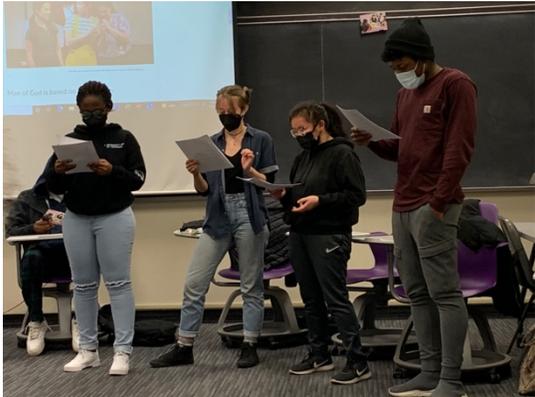
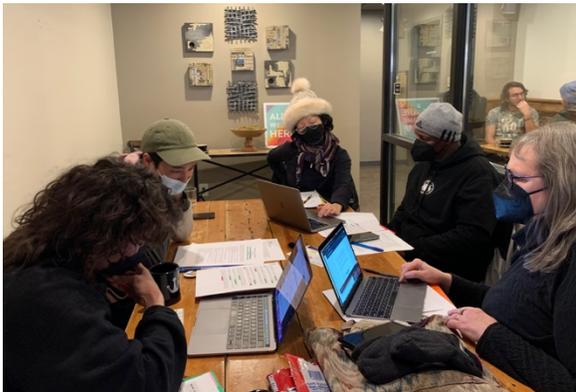
(Signature) _____

(Signature) _____

ON STAGE: *Man of God* – Social Media/Marketing



ON STAGE: Man of God – Photos



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: 142 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: 296 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: 399 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

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

TOTAL ON STAGE PARTICIPANTS: 4,748

TOTAL TICKETS PURCHASED: 1,352

*** 28% OF THE STUDENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE VISITED SAW THE PLAY THAT WAS DISCUSSED**

OnStage/OnLine: Total Outreach

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (Frank Theatre)
Total Participants: 208

The Most Beautiful Home... Maybe (Mixed Blood Theatre)
Total Participants: 314

Nina Simone: Four Women (Pillsbury House Theatre)
Total Participants: 252

Animate (Mixed Blood Theatre)
Total Participants: 379

TOTAL ONSTAGE/ONLINE PARTICIPANTS: 1,153