



FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

On Stage Creates Community Dialogue Around Live Theater



PROMOTING *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* AT PARK SQUARE THEATRE

Thomasina Petrus (left), H. Adam Harris facilitating an On Stage discussion at the University of St. Thomas for Sociology 251: Race and Ethnicity.

STUDENTS EXPOSED TO THEATER, GO TO THEATER

Since launching in the fall of 2016, more than **2,000** college and high school students have participated in an On Stage in-class educational discussion featuring local actors, with more than **600** subsequently paying to see the show that was promoted and discussed.



Maria Asp, Lucas Erickson and Dario Tangelson at MCAD after facilitating an On Stage discussion about the play *The Lorax*

"I created On Stage to bring actors to college classrooms and community settings in order to make live theater more relevant to younger audiences," 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, and more enjoyable for all." On Stage was the culmination of Erickson's Masters in Arts and Cultural Leadership at the University of Minnesota. To learn more about building younger audiences and to read Erickson's Capstone Paper click below:

Building Younger Audiences

Capstone Paper



ON STAGE PARTNERS WITH DYNAMIC LOCAL THEATERS

Over the past two years since the program launched, On Stage has partnered with: **Mixed Blood Theatre** on *An Octoroon*, **Park Square Theatre** on *A Raisin in the Sun*, **Jungle Theater** on *Anna in the Tropics* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, **Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company** on *We Are the Levinson's* and *Collected Stories*, **Pillsbury House Theater** on *Pike Street*, **Frank Theatre** on *Revolt. She said. Revolt again*, and **Children's Theatre Company** on *The Lorax*.

ON STAGE ACTS AS A LIASON TO HELP BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH POTENTIAL FUTURE THEATER-GOERS



Thomasina Petrus facilitating an On Stage discussion at Washburn High School about the play *Pike St.*

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

Addiction Studies.

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

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



UPCOMING SEASON 2018/2019

MARIE AND ROSETTA

Park Square Theatre. November 23 - December 30, 2018

Written by George Brant

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.

ACTUALLY

Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. February 16 - March 10, 2019

Written by Anna Ziegler

This bold and new two-character play is about two Princeton University freshmen, their sexual encounter, and the subsequent university investigation of whether a sexual assault took place. Amber is a Jewish girl from an upper middle-class family of well-educated professionals. Tom is an African American young man from a struggling, single parent home who will be the first to complete college.

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

Theater Latté Da. March 27 - May 5, 2019

Written by John Cameron Mitchell

A German emigrant living in a trailer in Kansas is the victim of a botched sex-change operation. Adapted from the critically acclaimed off-Broadway rock theater hit and winner of the 2014 Tony award for Best Musical Revival, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* tells the story of the "internationally ignored" transgender rock singer, Hedwig, and her search for stardom and love.

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

Jungle Theater. May 18 - June 16, 2019

Written by Bess Wohl

In the overwhelming quiet of the woods, six runaways from city life embark on a silent retreat. As these strangers confront internal demons both profound and absurd, their vows of silence collide with the achingly human need to connect. Filled with awkward and insightful humor, *Small Mouth Sounds* is a unique and compassionate new play that asks how we address life's biggest questions when words fail us.

On Stage is a fiscally-sponsored program through Springboard for the Arts

For questions about upcoming On Stage discussions please visit:
onstagemn.org

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