

LLC THEATER CONVERSATIONS

SPRING 24 | SYLLABUS updated 3/21/24

Welcome to LLC Theater Conversations.

Program Description: Join our popular Theater Conversations course as we attend plays, discuss them, learn from each other, and enjoy visitors from the productions! We will feature *Fences* at Trinity Rep, *Doubt: A Parable* and *12th Night* at the Gamm, *Wolf Play* at the Wilbury Theatre Group, *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties* at the Burbage Theater Company, and *Alabaster* at the Brown/Trinity MFA program.

Format: Participants will attend a performance of each play. Each class member is expected to present material or lead a short, lively class discussion on aspects of a play, including production features, themes, the playwright's background and intent as well as the director's interpretation. Actors or other members of the theater companies will join the class on several occasions to enrich our understanding of the plays and the production process.

Coordinators:

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Theater Conversations will hold ten class sessions on Thursday mornings (10 a.m.–Noon) over 10 weeks, beginning March 21 and extending to May 23. **Our first play, *Alabaster*, runs from March 7 to March 17, so please see the play before our first class on March 21.** During the course of the term, we'll be attending six plays at five area theaters (see the theatrical line-up on page 2).

At this time, we do not know what the theaters' rules are in regard to Covid, but we will let you know! You, of course, are always free to wear a mask. Should the need arise, due to a rise in Covid cases, we will switch to holding classes on Zoom.

Guest Speakers

We anticipate hearing from guest speakers from all six of our productions. The specific speakers will be announced closer to class dates.

Our Theatrical Line-Up and Ticket Information

- Note that the two plays at the Gamm are both at 10 am- one on a Friday and one on a Tuesday and the class attends as a group. The play at Trinity Rep is on a Thursday night; we will attend as a group in order to take advantage of a special group rate. The rest of the plays are on your own. If you have season tickets for any of the shows, you can use them to see the show assuming they are within our timeframe, or you can trade them to fit our schedule. Please check with the appropriate box office.

THEATER	PLAY	PERFORMANCES/TICKETS
<p>Trinity Repertory Co. 201 Washington St. Providence, RI 02903 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.351.4242 <i>Website:</i> trinityrep.com</p>	<p><i>Fences by August Wilson</i></p>	<p>Attend a performance with the class on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. for the special LLC rate of \$25 which applies to a guest or spouse also. Coordinator will provide instructions on how to get a ticket. You can also see this play at your convenience at standard Trinity ticket pricing before class discussion on Thurs., April 18</p>
<p>The Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre 1245 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02886 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.723.4266 <i>Website:</i> gammtheater.org</p>	<p><i>12th Night by William Shakespeare</i></p>	<p>The class performance is Tuesday April 9 at 10 AM. Tickets are \$25 for class members. Any attending spouse/partner can join us for a ticket price of \$39. Make your own reservation by calling the Gamm box office. Please see the play before our class on April 11. The quoted ticket price is available for other dates as well.</p>
	<p><i>Doubt: A Parable by John Patrick Shanley</i></p>	<p>The class performance is Friday May 10 at 10 AM. Tickets are \$25 for class members. Any attending spouse/partner can join us for a ticket price of \$39. Make your own reservation by calling the Gamm box office. Please see it before the class discussion on May 16. The quoted ticket price is available for other dates as well.</p>

The Wilbury Theatre Group WaterFire Arts Center 475 Valley St Providence, RI 02909 <i>Box office:</i> 401-400-7100 <i>Website:</i> thewilburygroup.org	<i>Wolf Play</i> by Hansol Jung	See this play at your convenience before class on Thurs. March 28. Play opens March 21. Tickets are pay what you can. Make your reservations by calling the box office or online.
THEATER	PLAY	PERFORMANCES/TICKETS
The Burbage Theatre Co. 59 Blackstone Ave. Pawtucket, RI 02860 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.484.0355 <i>Website:</i> burbagetheater.org	<i>Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties</i> by Jen Silverman	See this play at your convenience before May 2. Play opens March 28. Tickets are \$15.00 for the LLC rate (student price).
The Pell Chafee Performance Center 87 Empire St Providence, RI 02903 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.351.4242 <i>Website:</i> trinityrep.com	<i>Alabaster</i> by Audrey Cefaly	See this play at your convenience before March 17. Play opens March 7. Tickets are \$10.00 for seniors. Purchase your tickets through the Trinity Rep Box office.

Brief Synopsis of Plays this session:

Our first play, *Alabaster*, is a darkly comic southern drama about love, art and the power of women. It explores the meaning and purpose of art.

Wolf Play –“When an online adoption process goes sideways, the young boy caught in the middle launches himself into a lone wolf’s journey to find a pack he can call his own... The play employing puppetry, boxing, and crackling dialogue to tell the affecting story of trust, love, identity, and the families we choose and unchoose.” The Wilbury Theater

12th Night- “Mistaken identities, gender bending, and twins lost at sea! Love unrequited and love triumphant! This buoyant comedy, populated with some of Shakespeare’s most memorable characters and clowns, has something for everyone. Penned in the celebratory spirit of Tudor England’s post-Christmas Twelfth Night festival, the Bard’s brilliant satire explores the mutable nature of gender, sexuality, and social standing with heart and humor.” The Gamm Theatre

Fences. Set in the 1950's, this critically acclaimed family drama is the 6th of August Wilson's ten part Pittsburgh Cycle and focuses on a family in which the dad is a garbage collector after a successful career in the Negro League but is now struggling to support his family. Winner of both the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play in 1987.

Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties "A hilarious play, which The New York Times called "a full-tilt lesbian/bi-curious/genderqueer/Shakespearean comedy for everyone," explores anger, sex, love and the "thea-tah" through the experiences of five women named Betty" Samuel French

Doubt: A Parable, the winner of a Pulitzer and a Tony award, "set against the backdrop of a 1960s America in the midst of political and social change, a progressive young priest's conduct comes under question by Sister Aloysius Beauvier, the school principal whose beliefs are deeply rooted in tradition. As the actions and motivations of each are scrutinized and suspicion mounts, the two are drawn into a battle of wills that threatens irrevocable consequences for all involved."- Writers Theater

YOUR ROLE IN CLASS

Leading a Class discussion:

Class discussions can come in many forms; please think about what your strength might be and use that to decide when and how you want to lead a class. None of us are experts on theater and enjoy the opportunity to share our views and perspectives while learning something. Use your creativity!

We ask that you decide on a topic by the first week of the session, so please review the class schedule with your skills in mind. We have 14 sessions that you can lead which should include 20 minutes for discussion/questions and 20 minutes of content. (leaving time in the hour for a break and announcements) We welcome you to pair up with another classmate. There is an in-depth discussion on "presentations" on the LLC website for your reference under Members Resources at [presentations](#) that you might find very useful. We depend on all of you to make this class a success!

For those who have not joined us before, discussion of play content could cover the history of the play, a discussion of the themes, or characters, a historical perspective on the period of the play, a comparison with other works, a discussion on the author, an in-depth look at some aspect of the story or analysis of any aspect of the play or anything else you can think of, for that matter.

As for the performance aspects, we are interested in discussing what we saw and heard at the performance- the costumes, staging, lighting, music, acting, and the dramatic effect or how the play moved from the page to the stage or any other aspect of performance/staging. It is up to you.

Using PowerPoint or a similar program is not required, but you can refer to LLC's guidelines for the development of PowerPoint slides here:[slideshows](#)

No matter what format you've chosen for your presentation, please have a plan for involving the class, encouraging stimulating discussion, debate, and the sharing of experience. If you want to send material to the class ahead of time, you can send it yourself, or you can send it to us and we will forward it to the class. If you plan to do this, please try to get this information to your classmates as early as possible.

Please feel free to discuss your ideas with your coordinators and we will be happy to assist you with any technology or other concerns.

As you can see below, all of the slots for presentations are currently open. (see the orange blocks) Please choose your topic and let us know ASAP. We would be delighted to have all of the slots filled before class begins!

LLC Policies

Food: Food is NOT allowed in the classrooms. Beverages are allowed but must be covered. If you bring a snack or lunch for between classes, it must NOT include pork, shellfish, or meat mixed with dairy. You may eat in the coffee room; please clean up after yourself!

Parking: Do NOT park in any assigned spaces. Vehicles parked in assigned spaces will be towed at owner's expense.

Cancellations: All information about class cancellations for any reason (including weather) will be communicated to the class by the coordinator through email. Please do NOT call the Temple Office.

Technology: The TV/computer setup in each room accepts flash drives and provides Internet access. *Only the class coordinator or a trained designee* should set up the TV/computer at the beginning of class and break it down at the end of class. If you have not been trained, do not set up, change, or tinker with the classroom technology. This system will only accept Keynote or PowerPoint format for the flash drive. If you are using another software program, please convert your slides to PDF and save to your flash drive. Please arrange with Kathy to test your flash drive in the weeks before your presentation to assure there will be no problems on your presentation day and to allay any concerns you may have.

Entrance into the Temple: Please use the rear door for entrance into the temple. There is a temple employee now posted at that door during standard entrance times, i.e. from 9:30 to 10:15 am and from 12:30 to 1:15pm. You will be given an entrance card during the first class by us which you will need to show the temple employee upon entering the building. If you have misplaced your card, you will need to get a new one from us. If you arrive after or before these hours, you will need to push the button and request entry, giving your name and identifying yourself as an LLC member. If you are parking in a handicap parking space in the front of the building, you may continue to enter through the front door using the same procedure as above. The temple requests that we do not use the front door as a convenience otherwise unless we are hosting a special event.

Class Calendar:

Wk. 5: Thurs. 4/18 10:00am to Noon	Temple Beth El	Performance Aspects: <i>Fences</i> Mary Frappier	Visitor: <i>12th Night</i> Deb Martin
Wk. 6: Thurs. 4/25 10:00am to Noon	Temple Beth El	Content: <i>Fences</i> Sam Shamoon	Visitor: <i>Fences</i> Open
Before 5/2	Attend: <i>Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties</i> at the Burbage Theatre		
Wk. 7: Thurs 5/2 10:00am to Noon	Temple Beth El	Performance Aspects: <i>Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties</i> Deborah De Coteau	Content: <i>Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties</i> Mary Ellen O'Sullivan
Wk. 8: Thurs. 5/9 10:00am to Noon	Temple Beth El	Visitor: 5 Betties: Open	Visitor- Josh Short, Artistic Director, The Wilbury Theatre Group

WEEK/DATE/TIME	ATTEND	HOOR 1	HOOR 2
Opens 3/7. See before 3/21	Attend: <i>Alabaster</i> at the Brown Trinity MFA Program		
Wk. 1: Thurs. 3/21 10:00am to Noon	Temple Beth El	Kathy and Mike Introductions and Welcome	Performance Aspects/Content: <i>Alabaster</i> Kathy/Mike
Before 3/28	Attend: <i>Wolf Play</i> at The Wilbury Theatre Group		
Wk. 2: Thurs. 3/28 10am to noon.	Temple Beth El	Performance Aspects: <i>Wolf Play</i> Bobbie and Eric Cohen	Visitor: <i>Alabaster- Tay Bass, actor</i>
Wk. 3: Thurs. 4/4 10am to noon	Temple Beth El	Content: <i>Wolf Play</i> Kate McGovern	Visitor: <i>Wolf Play</i> Marcel Mascaro
4/9 at 10 AM or before 4/11	Attend: <i>12th Night</i> at the Gamm Theater		
Wk. 4: Thurs. 4/11 10am to Noon	Temple Beth El	Performance Aspects: <i>12th Night</i> Pat Nickles	Content : <i>12th Night</i> Gordon Hayes
4/11 at 7:30 PM or before 4/18	Attend: <i>Fences</i> at Trinity Rep		

Attend 5/10 at 10 AM or Before 5/16	Attend <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> at The Gamm Theatre		
Wk. 9: Thurs. 5/16 10:00 AM to Noon	Temple Beth El	Performance aspects : <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> Barb Simon	Content: <i>Doubt: A Parable</i> Open Jill Tobak
Wk. 10: Thurs. 5/23 10:00 AM to Noon	Temple Beth El	Visitor: <i>Doubt: A Parable</i>	Wrap Up

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