

LLC: THEATRE CONVERSATIONS, SECTION 2

FALL 2016 | SYLLABUS **Final**

Welcome to LLC Theatre Conversations, Section 2!

Class meetings

Each week, our section will be meeting (Thursdays, 10 a.m.–Noon at Temple Beth El at 70 Orchard Ave., Providence) concurrently with Mike and Kathy Webster’s Section 1, which conveniently enables us to combine classes for special guest appearances.

The plays

We will be attending five plays at three theatres during the course of the semester:

Theatre	Trinity Repertory Company	Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre	The Wilbury Theatre Group
Address	201 Washington St. Providence, RI 02903 Box Office: 401.351.4242	172 Exchange St. Pawtucket, RI 02860 Box Office: 401.723.4266	393 Broad St. Providence RI 02907 Box Office: 401.400.7100
Plays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage</i> (billed as a “raucous rock & role” modern version of the ancient poem) • <i>Appropriate</i> (a “biting comic drama” and winner of an Obie for best new American play) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arcadia</i> (by Tom Stoppard and considered one of the top plays of the past 50 years) • <i>American Buffalo</i> (by David Mamet, a “small scale tragedy” and another Obie winner) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shadow in Shadow</i> (a “multi-party experiment in process-driven theater” written by Eric Ehn, a theater professor at Brown)

Costs

Both the Trinity Rep and Gamm productions will cost \$20 per ticket. We will let you know later the cost of Wilbury tickets.

We will coordinate the collection of your checks for each play. Please note that these prices are for class members only. If you cannot attend one of the scheduled class performances, you will need to book a seat on your own at regular theatre rates. If you already have season tickets at any of these theatres, you may attend the class performances with those tickets.

Scripts

Kathy has already distributed PDFs of *Beowulf* and *Appropriate*. If you did not receive her email, let us know and we will forward a copy.

The scripts for *Arcadia* (1995) and *American Buffalo* (1994) are available as a Amazon used paperback for \$0.01 and up.

Your role in class

If you have attended past “seasons” of Theatre Discussions, you’ll be familiar with the class routine of short presentations (~30 minutes) and lively discussion. If you’re new to this course, we want you to know that we believe strongly in the collaborative model. In other words, you’ll find at least 12 opportunities to lead the class for an hour. You are welcome to do this on your own or to enlist another class member to join you. We will work with you to ensure a successful presentation and discussion.

At this point, please review the calendar, beginning on page 3, and tell us which day/hour you’d like to “own.” Again, if you’re new and not sure what you might present, we’re happy to work with you.

How to reach us

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DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	PREPARATION	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
Thurs., Sept 8 11 a.m.	Attend Convocation	Temple Beth El			
Thurs., Sept 8 7:30 p.m.	Attend <i>Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage</i>	Trinity Rep	Read <i>Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage</i>		
Thurs., Sept 15 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>Beowulf</i>	Hour 1: Class introduction and discussion of production aspects of <i>Beowulf</i> Hour 2: Discuss <i>Beowulf</i> content	Hour 1: Kathy and Mike Webster Hour 2: Paula Segal & Don Harper
Fri., Sept. 16 10 a.m.	Attend <i>Arcadia</i>	The Gamm	Read <i>Arcadia</i>		
Thurs., Sept. 22 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>Beowulf</i> and <i>Arcadia</i>	Hour 1: Discuss <i>Arcadia</i> production aspects Hour 2: Guest speaker from <i>Arcadia</i> to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Nick & Maggie Miles Hour 2: Tony Estrella from Gamm
Thurs., Sept. 29 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>Arcadia</i>	Hour 1: Discuss <i>Arcadia</i> content Hour 2: Guest speaker from <i>Beowulf</i> to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Don Harper and Ellie Sordoni Hour 2: Curt Columbus from Trinity Rep
Thurs. Oct. 6 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>Arcadia</i> and <i>Appropriate</i>	Hour 1: Discuss <i>Arcadia</i> content Hour 2: Discuss <i>Appropriate</i> content	Hour 1: Hour 2:
Thurs., Oct. 6 7:30 p.m.	Attend <i>Appropriate</i>	Trinity Rep	Read <i>Appropriate</i>		

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Thurs., Oct. 13 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>Appropriate</i>	Hour 1: Discuss <i>Appropriate</i> production aspects Hour 2: Guest speaker from <i>Appropriate</i> to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Bonnie Moore Hour 2: Phyllis Kay of Trinity Rep.
Thurs., Oct. 20 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Write a review of one of the plays we have seen this season	Hour 1: Share and discuss reviews Hour 2: Theater critic guest speaker to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Maggie Miles Hour 2: Bill Gail, RI Public Radio
Thurs., Oct. 20– Thurs., Oct. 27	Attend <i>10,000 Things</i>	The Wilbury Group	Read <i>10,000 Things</i>		
Thurs., Oct 27 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read or see <i>10,000 Things</i>	Hour 1: Discuss production aspects of <i>10,000 Things</i> Hour 2: Guest speaker from <i>10,000 Things</i> to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Sheila Zompa Hour 2: Erik Ehn, Brown theater professor
Thurs., Nov. 3 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El		Hour 1: (30 min.) Discuss <i>10,000 Things</i> content; (30 min.) Betty Ann Hughson to discuss her theater trip to Dublin Hour 2: Guest speaker from the Gamm to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Jody Josephson and Betty Ann Hughson Hour 2: Jessica Hill, the Gamm

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	PREPARATION	TOPICS	PRESENTERS
Thurs., Nov. 10 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>American Buffalo</i>	Hour 1: Discuss <i>American Buffalo</i> content Hour 2: Guest speaker from <i>American Buffalo</i> to meet with combined sections	Hour 1: Mary Frappier Hour 2: Tyler Dobrowski, director, the Gamm
Thurs., Nov. 17 10 a.m.–Noon	Class	Temple Beth El	Read <i>American Buffalo</i>	Hour 1: Discuss <i>American Buffalo</i> content Hour 2: Course evaluation and end-of-session party	Hour 1: Penny & Tom Backman Hour 2: All
Fri., Nov. 18 10 a.m.	Attend <i>American Buffalo</i>	The Gamm	Read <i>American Buffalo</i>		