

LLC THEATER CONVERSATIONS FALL 25 | SYLLABUS

Welcome to LLC Theater Conversations.

Program Description: Join our popular Theater Conversations course as we attend a wide variety of plays, discuss them, learn from each other, and enjoy visitors from the productions! We will feature the world premiere of *Cold War Choir Practice* (Bo Reddick) at Trinity, *Frankie and Johnny at the Claire de Lune* (Terrence McNally) at the Gamm, the world premiere of *From Here to Where* (Umberto Crenca) and the musical award winner and regional premiere of *Octet* (Dave Malloy) at the Wilbury, *Every Brilliant Thing* (MacMillan, with Donahoe) at the Burbage Theatre Company, and TBA at Brown/Trinity MFA.

Format: Participants will attend a performance of each play. Each class member is encouraged 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.

Expenses: Total expenses of about \$120 for most dates, including the special Trinity group rate.

Classes are held Thursday from 10AM to 12 noon beginning September 25 (note the late start) until December 18 with no class on October 2 or November 27.

Coordinators:

Kathy Webster

rettsgram@gmail.com

269 369 1456

Mike Webster

mrwsails@gmail.com

269 369 1561

Theater Conversations will hold ten class sessions on Thursday mornings (10 a.m.–Noon) over 10 weeks, beginning September 25 and extending to December 11. Our first play, *Cold War Choir Practice* runs from September 4 to October 5 , so please see the play before our first class on September 25. Tickets are already on sale for this play. During the course of the term, we'll be attending seven plays at five area theaters (see the theatrical line-up on page 2).

Guest Speakers

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

Our Theatrical Line-Up and Ticket Information

Note:

The rest of the plays you will see 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
Trinity Repertory Co. 201 Washington St. Providence, RI 02903 Box Office: 401.351.4252 Website: trinityrep.com	<p><i>Cold War Choir Practice</i> by Bo Reddick</p>	<p>Attend a performance with the class on 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 9/25.</p> <p>From Trinity: Our in-person Ticket Office is temporarily closed during our transformational renovation. Tickets are always available online, and customer service is available by phone (401-351-4242) or email (tickets@trinityrep.com) WED–SUN, 12–6 pm. Will-call and day-of tickets are available in the lobby starting two hours before showtime. Thank you for your patience and understanding.</p>

<p>The Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre 1255 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02886 Box Office: 401.723.4266 Website: gammtheater.org</p>	<p>Attend <i>Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune</i> by Terrence McNally</p>	<p>Please see this play at your convenience before class on 12/4 Play opens 11/6. 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.</p>
<p>Brown Trinity MFA Program Pell Chafee Performance Space 87 Empire St Providence , RI 02903 Box Office: 401.351.4252 Website: trinityrep.com</p>	<p><i>Mother Courage and her Children</i></p>	<p>See this play before class discussion on Nov 20. Play opens Nov 13. Tickets are \$10.00 bought through the Trinity Rep Box Office, number at left. See previous note about current construction changes at Trinity box office.</p>
<p>The Wilbury Theatre Group WaterFire Art Center 475 Valley St. Providence, RI 02909 Box office 401 400 7100 Website : the wilburygroup.org</p>	<p><i>From Here to Where</i> by Umberto Crenca and the Gillen Street Ensemble</p>	<p>See this play at your convenience before class on October 16. Play opens Sept 18 . Tickets are pay what you can. Make your reservations by calling the box office or online.</p>
<p>The Burbage Theatre Co. 59 Blackstone Ave. Pawtucket, RI 02860 Box Office: 401.484.0355 Website: burbagetheater.org</p>	<p><i>Every Brilliant Thing</i> by Duncan MacMillan, with Jonny Donahoe</p>	<p>See this play at your convenience by Oct /23. Play runs from 9/11 to 9/28. Tickets are \$15.00 for the LLC rate (student price).</p>

	Witching Hour Social Club	See this play at your convenience by Nov 6. Play opens Oct 16. Tickets are \$20.00 for the LLC rate (student price). Use code LLC2025WHSC
--	---------------------------	--

Brief Synopsis of Plays this Session:

From Here to Where- “Part lyrical sermon, part political exorcism, and part late-night jam session, *From Here to Where* is an ensemble-driven living composition that confronts questions of existence, power, and transformation. Structured less like a story and more like a reckoning, it unfolds through monologue, music, movement, sculpture, film, and satire—swerving between psychic vignettes, sacred ritual, and primal scream. At the heart of the piece is The Gillen Street Ensemble, whose performances are simultaneously intentional and abstract. What may appear formless gradually reveals a delicate outline of connection. No two shows will be the same. You can never step into the same river twice.” The Wilbury Theatre Group

Octet – Dave Malloy’s “award winning off Broadway hit. Eight internet-obsessed people meet in real life to share their stories and wrestle their demons, using nothing but a pitch pipe and the transcendent quality of their analog, a cappella voices. With witty lyrics, shimmering harmonies, and virtuosic solos, *Octet* sings of connection, redemption, hope—and how we can be truly present with each other”. Berkeley Rep

Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune-“ *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune* is an enduring portrait of middle-aged love and desire. Taking place over the course of one night, the play tracks two blue-collar romantics as they confront feelings of loneliness, insecurity, and the universal human need for intimacy”. Philadelphia Theater Company

Welcome to Cold War Choir Practice-“ It’s twilight in Ronald Reagan’s America and the specter of nuclear war hangs over the country—but rent is still due on the 1st. When a prominent Black conservative brings his mysteriously ill wife home for the holidays, the unplanned reunion sets longsimmering tensions within the family to boil—and throws each member into a bizarre maze of Reaganomics, Cold War espionage, capitalist cult predation, and... choir practice. Featuring original music and set in the mesmerizing ambiance of a retro roller-skating rink, *Cold War Choir Practice* celebrates the lengths we go to for those we love. A world premiere” Trinity Reparatory Company

Every Brilliant Thing- “It is an interactive monologue, performed with audience participation. The plot: a 7-year-old’s mother attempts suicide, the 7-year-old begins a list of things that are worth living for (every brilliant thing). 10 years later the mom attempts suicide again and the now 17-year-old doesn’t take it as well and stops the list. The now college student falls in love and continues the list. After becoming happily married, the character’s mother actually commits suicide, depression sets in and the list stops. Eventually, our heroine gets psychological help and finishes the list at 1 million. A joyous, thought-provoking, and delightful ride.” League of Cincinnati Theaters

Witching Hour Social Club- “Two estranged friends meet in the woods on an autumn night for the first gathering of their high school storytelling club in fifteen years. When it seems they’re the only club members in attendance, their hopes for a big reunion dwindle. As they wait for their friends to arrive, they listen to cassette tapes of old stories from the club to pass the time. But there’s more on the tapes than just old stories. This play is largely inspired by classic horror anthologies like *Creepshow*, *Tales from the Crypt*, and of course, *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*” The Burbage Theatre Company

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 11 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](#) .The coordinator is happy to assemble a slide show if you need that help.

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. You may eat in the coffee room; please clean up after yourself!

Parking: Ample parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Shriners Center.

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 Shriners Center 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 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 and send a copy to Kathy. Please arrange with her 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 Shriners Center: Please enter the Shriners Center at the door under the Portico. The door will be open from 9 to 5 Monday through Friday.

Emergencies: If we have an emergency requiring medical assistance while in the classroom, please call 911. If a cardiac emergency occurs that requires an AED defibrillator, there is one mounted on the wall just off the elevator next to the McIntyre Room. If 911 has been called, be sure to notify the Shriners Center Office at 401 so they can be apprised of the situation. There are fire extinguishers mounted in each hallway and fire call buttons throughout the building.

Class Calendar

WEEK/DATE/TIME	ATTEND	HOUR 1	HOUR 2
Opens 9/4, see the play before 9/25	<i>Attend Cold War Choir Practice at Trinity Rep</i>		
Week 1- September 25	Shriners Center	Course introductions and schedule review Kathy and Mike	Performance aspects of <i>Cold War Choir Practice</i> Kathy and Mike
No class October 2			
Week 2-October 9	Shriners Center	Content: Cold War Choir Practice	Visitor: <i>Cold War Choir Practice</i>
Week 3- October 16	Shriners Center	Performance aspects: From Here to Where	Content : Every Brilliant Thing
Opens September 11, see play before October 23	<i>Attend Every Brilliant Thing at the Burbage Theatre Company</i>		
Week 4- October 23	Shriners Center	Visitor : <i>From Here to Where</i>	Performance aspects: Every Brilliant Thing
Week 5- October 30	Shriners Center	Content: Every Brilliant Thing	Performance Aspects: Every Brilliant Thing
Opens October 16, see before November 6	<i>Attend Witching Hour Social Club at the Burbage Theatre Company</i>		
Week 6- November 6	Shriners Center	Content: Witching Hour Social Club	

Week 7- November 13	Shriners Center	Visitor: <i>Witching Hour Social Club</i>	TBD
Week 8- November 20	Shriners Center	MFA: Content	MFA: Performance aspects
No Class November 27			
Opens November 11, see play before December 4	<i>Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune</i> at the Gamm		
Week 9- December 4	Shriners Center	Visitor: MFA	Performance aspects: <i>Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune</i>
Opens December 11, see before December 18	Attend <i>Octet</i> at the Wilbury Theatre Group		
Week 10- December 11	Shriners Center	Content: <i>Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune</i>	Visitor: <i>Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune</i>
Week 11- December 18	Shriners Center	Content/Performance: aspects of <i>Octet</i>	Visitor: <i>Octet</i>

SyllabusTCFall25.docx Aug 7, 2025

