

LLC THEATER CONVERSATIONS SPRING 26 | 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 *Ghosts* (Henrik Ibsen) and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Martin McDonagh) at the Gamm Theatre, *Primary Trust* (Ebony Booth) at Trinity Rep, *Clyde's* (Lynn Nottage) and *Measure for Measure* (William Shakespeare) at the Burbage Theatre Company, and the regional premiere of *The Comeuppance* (Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins) at the Wilbury Theater Group.

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 March 19 and ends May 21.

Coordinators:

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Our Theatrical Line-Up and Ticket Information :

| THEATER | PLAY | PERFORMANCES/TICKETS |
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| <p>Trinity Repertory Co. 201 Washington St. Providence, RI 02903 Box Office: 401.351.4262 Website: trinityrep.com</p> | <p><i>Attend Primary Trust by Eboni Booth</i></p> | <p>Attend a performance with the class on April 23 at 7:30 p.m. for the special LLC rate of \$25 which applies to a guest or spouse, 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 April 30.</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> |

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| <p>The Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre 1265 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02886 Box Office: 401.723.4266 Website:</p> | <p>Attend <i>Ghosts</i> by Henrik Ibsen</p> | <p>Coordinators will provide information on how to get a discounted ticket. Please see this play at your convenience before class on March 19 Play opens February 26.</p> |
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| <p>gammtheater.org</p> | | <p>Tickets are \$25 for class members. Any attending spouse/partner can join us for a ticket price of \$39.</p> |
| | <p>Attend <i>The Cripple of Inishmaan</i> by Martin McDonagh</p> | <p>Coordinators will provide information on how to get a discounted ticket. Please see this play at your convenience before class on April 23 Play opens April 9. Tickets are \$25 for class members. Any attending spouse/partner can join us for a ticket price of \$39.</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>Attend <i>The Comeuppance</i> by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins</p> | <p>See this play at your convenience before class on April 2 Play opens March 26. Tickets are pay what you can. Make your reservations by calling the box office or online.</p> |

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| <p>The Burbage Theatre Co. 59 Blackstone Ave. Pawtucket, RI 02860 Box Office: 401.484.0355 Website: burbagetheater.org</p> | <p>Attend <i>Clyde's</i> by Lynn Nottage</p> | <p>See this play at your convenience by April 9. Play begins March 19. Tickets are \$20.00 for the LLC rate. Use code: LLC2025CLYDES</p> |
| | <p>Attend <i>Measure for Measure</i> by William Shakespeare</p> | <p>See this play at your convenience by May 21. Play opens May 14. Tickets are \$20.00 for the LLC rate. Use code: LLC2025MAAN</p> |

Brief Synopsis of Plays this Session:

Primary Trust

“Kenneth has lived his entire life in the same sleepy town. Every day he works at the bookstore, then share happy hour Maios with his best friend when a sudden layoff rockets Kenneth out of his comfort zone, he is forced to find the courage to face his biggest fear: change. This 2024 Pulitzer prize winner is an intimate, offbeat new comedy and a heartwarming story about one man’s leap of faith and the friends he makes along the way.” Trinity Repertory Company

Ghosts

“Henrik Ibsen’s haunting masterpiece of moral reckoning, *Ghosts* lays bare the corrosive power of secrets and the cost of keeping up appearances. In a remote Norwegian town, Helen Alving prepares to dedicate an orphanage in her late husband’s name. But when her son Oswald returns home, buried truths begin to

rise and the ghosts of the past refuse to stay hidden. Hypocrisy, illness, and forbidden love begin to expose the rot beneath respectability, igniting a firestorm of guilt and desire. Bold, unsettling, and decades ahead of its time, Ghosts still hits like a gut punch with one of the most powerful climaxes in all of modern drama.”

The Gamm Theatre

The Cripple of Inishmaan

“ From the darkly hilarious mind of Martin McDonagh, comes this wickedly funny tale of hope , cruelty, and island gossip. On the remote island of Inishmaan, young “ Cripple” Billy dreams of escaping his bleak life and earning a role in a Hollywood film. When a movie crew arrives on a neighboring island, Billy sees his chance. But at what costs? With its absurd characters and razor-sharp wit, The Cripple of Inishmaan is a twisted comic gem that balances laughter with heartbreak in equal measure.”

The Gamm Theatre

The Comeuppance (Regional Premiere)

“On the night of their 20th high School reunion, the self-proclaimed “ Multi Ethnic Reject group” reconnects while they pregame in Prince George’s County, Maryland. But amid the flow of reminiscing, an otherworldly presence forces these former classmates to face the past head on and reckon with an unknowable future. The latest from Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, this “mesmerizing” new play garnered a New York Times Critic’s Pick and Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play. Washington Post says, “ The Comeuppance assumes a wide aperture, encompassing many paradigm shifts- Columbine, 9/11, wars without and end and most recently, the pandemic- that have molded a generation into adulthood around the contours of death”. The Wilbury Group

Clyde’s

“In Clyde’s, a truck stop sandwich shop offers its formerly incarcerated kitchen staff a shot at redemption. Even as the shop’s callous owner tries to keep them down, the staff members learn to reclaim their lives, find purpose, and become inspired to dream by their shared quest to create the perfect sandwich.” The Burbage Theatre Company

“ We are living in Greek times... the systems that control our lives - institutional racism, predatory capitalism, the prison-industrial complex- seems as powerful and implacable as gods. What can humans do about fate,[other] playwrights suggest but submit to it and hope to preserve the story?...But Nottage’s delightful play, Clyde’s ... dares to flip the paradigm. Though it’s still about dark things, including prison, drugs, homelessness, and poverty, it somehow turns them into bright comedy” The New York Times

Measure for Measure

“Measure for Measure is among the most passionately discussed of Shakespeare’s plays. In it, a duke temporarily removes himself from governing his city-state, deputizing a member of his administration, Angelo, to enforce the laws more rigorously. Angelo chooses as his first victim Claudio, condemning him to death because he impregnated Juliet before their marriage.

Claudio’s sister Isabella, who is entering a convent, pleads for her brother’s life. Angelo attempts to extort sex from her, but Isabella preserves her chastity. The duke, in disguise, eavesdrops as she tells her brother about Angelo’s behavior, then offers to ally himself with her against Angelo.

Modern responses to the play show how it can be transformed by its reception in present culture to evoke continuing fascination. To some, the duke (the government) seems meddlesome; to others, he is properly imposing moral standards. Angelo and Isabella’s encounter exemplifies sexual harassment. Others see a woman’s right to control her body in Isabella’s choice between her virginity and her brother’s life.” Folger Shakespeare Library

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 10 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 4677100 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 2/26 , see before 3/19 | Attend <i>Ghosts</i> at the Gamm Theatre | | |
| Week 1- March 19 | Shriners Center | Course introductions and schedule review Kathy and Mike | Content: <i>Ghosts</i> Barb Simon |
| Week 2-March 26 | Shriners Center | Performance Aspects: <i>Ghosts</i> Mary Frappier | Visitor: <i>Ghosts</i> Liam Roberts |
| 3/26 to 4/2 | Attend <i>Comeuppance</i> at the Wilbury Theater Company r | | |
| Week 3- April 2 | Shriners Center | Content: <i>The Comeuppance</i> Kate McGovern | Performance Aspects: <i>The Comeuppance</i> Pat Moriarty |
| 3/19 to 4/9 | Attend <i>Clyde's</i> at the Burbage Theatre Company | | |
| Week 4- April 9 | Shriners Center | Content: <i>Clyde's</i> Eric and Bobbie Cohen | Visitor: <i>The Comeuppance</i> – Christine Treglia |
| Week 5- April 16 | Shriners Center | Performance Aspects: <i>Clyde's</i> Jessica Siegel and Jill Tobak | Visitor: <i>Clyde's</i> |
| 4/9 to 4/23 | Attend <i>Cripple of Inishmaan</i> at the Gamm Theatre | | |
| Week 6- April 23 | No Class | | |

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| 4/9 to 4/30 | Attend <i>Primary Trust</i> at Trinity Rep | | |
| Week 7- April 30 | Shriners Center | Content: <i>Cripple of Inishmaan</i> Pat Nickles | Performance aspects: <i>Cripple of Inishmaan</i> Deborah DeCoteau |
| Week 8- May 7 | Shriners Center | Content : <i>Primary Trust</i> Sheila and Dick Brush | Visitor : <i>Cripple of Inishmaan</i> |
| Week 9- May 14 | Shriners Center | Performance Aspects: <i>Primary Trust</i> Katy Gilchrist | Visitor: <i>Primary Trust</i> |
| 5/14 to 5/21 | Attend <i>Measure for Measure</i> at the Burbage Theatre Group | | |
| Week 10- May 21 | Shriners Center | Performance aspects/ content: <i>Measure for Measure</i> Bill and Maureen Fischer | Visitor: <i>Measure for Measure</i> |