

LLC THEATER CONVERSATIONS, SECTION 1

SPRING 2022 | SYLLABUS

Welcome to LLC Theater Conversations, Section 1, in our continuing hybrid model of seeing live theatrical performances but holding classes online.

Both sections of Theater Conversations will follow the same schedule of nine class sessions on Thursday mornings (10 a.m.–Noon) over 10 weeks, beginning March 17 and extending to May 19. **Our first play, *Gem of the Ocean*, will be February 24 before classes begin.** Note that class will not be held the week of April 28. During the course of the term, we'll be attending six plays at four area theaters (see the theatrical line-up on page 2).

CLASS MEETINGS

As during the past two years, our class will meet through the video-conferencing app Zoom. Most of you are already familiar with Zoom (available free at www.zoom.us), but if not, or if you'd like a refresher on how to use the app, please email or call us, and we'll walk you through a tutorial. Please note: If you have not updated your Zoom app, you should do so before any Zoom classes begin. You can do that through Zoom's website at www.zoom.us.

Our class size this term remains smaller than during pre-pandemic times. But local theaters continue to consult with state health authorities and are going to extraordinary lengths to provide safe settings for live performances. Masks will be required at all theaters as well as proof of vaccination.

As wonderful as video conferencing technology can be, many people find that Zoom classes can be exhausting. Our weekly sessions will include a decent mid-class break. Many also will be featuring guest speakers (along with Section 2) to keep things interesting.

Guest Speakers

We will be joining Section 2 to hear from guest speakers from all six of our productions. The specific speakers will be announced closer to class dates.

Our Theatrical Line-Up

| THEATER | PLAY | PERFORMANCES/TICKETS |
|---|---|---|
| Trinity Repertory Co. 201 Washington St. Providence, RI 02903 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.351.4242 <i>Website:</i> trinityrep.com | <i>Gem of the Ocean</i> by August Wilson. | Attend a performance with the class on Thurs., Feb 24, at 7:30 p.m. for the special LLC rate of \$25. 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 the course starts on Thurs., March 17. |

| THEATER | PLAY | PERFORMANCES/TICKETS |
|--|---|---|
| Trinity Repertory Co. | <i>Sueño</i> , translated and adapted by José Rivera from the play by Pedro Calderón de la Barca. | Attend a performance with the class on Tues., April 12, at 7:30 p.m. for the special LLC rate of \$25. 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 the class discussion on 4/14. |
| The Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre 1245 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI 02886 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.723.4266 <i>Website:</i> gammtheater.org | <i>Ironbound</i> by Martyna Majok. | The class performance is Fri, March 18 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$25 for class members and any attending spouse/partner. Make your own reservation by calling the Gamm box office. The play runs from 3/17 to 4/10 but see it before class discussion on 3/24. |
| | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare. | The class performance is Fri, May 6 at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$25 for class members and any attending spouse/partner. Make your own reservation by calling the Gamm box office. The play runs from 5/5-5/29 but see it before class discussion on 5/12. |
| Brown/Trinity MFA Pell Chafee Performance Center 58 Empire St. Providence, RI <i>Trinity Rep Box Office:</i> 401.351.4242 <i>Website:</i> trinityrep.com | <i>Angels in America/Millennium Approaches</i> by Tony Kushner. | See this play at your convenience before class on Thurs., 4/7. Call Trinity Rep's box office for performance dates. Ask for the senior rate of \$8. |
| The Burbage Theatre Co. 59 Blackstone Ave. Pawtucket, RI 02860 <i>Box Office:</i> 401.484.0355 <i>Website:</i> burbagetheater.org | The New England premier of <i>The Squirrels</i> by Robert Askins. | The play runs from 4/21 to 5/4, but please see it at your convenience before class discussion on 5/5. Purchase your own tickets by <i>calling</i> the Burbage box office. (Leave a message if no one answers.) Ask for the \$15 student ticket, available to members of our class. |

YOUR ROLE IN CLASS

We have 10 opportunities for class members to lead a class discussion (see the schedule on page 4). We encourage teamwork in reviewing a particular performance—so feel free to reach out to a fellow classmate to sign up for an hour. We'll be considering aspects of "content" (i.e., information about the playwright, the history or setting for the play, etc.) as well as "performance aspects" (acting, staging, directing, costuming, etc.) of each of our

plays. The coordinators will be happy to assist you in making your session a success. Just remember: The sooner you volunteer, the better the chance you can get the session you want.

ABOUT USING ZOOM

Since the pandemic began, LLC has been learning a lot about improving the overall Zoom experience. Here are a few tips:

- We encourage you to use a computer (either PC or Mac; desktop or laptop), if at all possible, with a built-in camera and microphone to access Zoom—versus an iPad or other tablet. The user interface on a computer tends to be easier to use than on a tablet. But if all you have is a tablet, that’s fine.
- We strongly *discourage* you from joining the class from a smart phone (Android or iPhone). The screen is small and the controls more limited than on a computer.
- If you plan to share YouTube clips or have slides to show (created in Microsoft PowerPoint, Apple Keynote or Google Slides), we’d like you to alert us to ensure you understand how to use Zoom’s screen-share function. We’ll also ask you to send us a copy of your presentation in advance, just so we have a back-up should there be any technical glitches.
- You will receive a link to each week’s call the morning of our class. We’ll open the call early so you’ll have a chance to resolve any technical issues or simply to visit.
- There are certain Zoom “etiquette” rules that LLC advocates. You’ll find them on page 6 of this syllabus.
- Finally, a reminder that we’re here to help you, should you feel you need it. In fact, LLC offers technical resources and even 1:1 help to make sure you’re comfortable using this technology. Just ask!

HOW TO REACH US

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To contact the Miles, coordinators of Section 2:

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LLC | TOP 10 TIPS ON ZOOM ETIQUETTE

When you attend an LLC class through Zoom, think of yourself as being in a real classroom. The same rules of etiquette apply. Your classmates will appreciate seeing that you're fully engaged with the class. Here are some general tips to keep in mind when joining a Zoom call.

Tip 1: Silence is golden. Typically, Zoom calls are disrupted more by audio issues than video. Learn how to mute yourself right way after joining a call. You can unmute to speak simply by clicking the unmute button or by pressing the space bar (on most computers).

Tip 2: Find a quiet place for the call. To minimize disruptions, try to isolate yourself (to the extent you can) so that others won't disrupt you. (That includes your pets!)

Tip 3: Silence your other devices. Pretend you're in a theater and turn off your phone or set it to silent mode. Same for computer notifications.

Tip 4: Be prepared. If you'll be presenting or sharing content during the meeting, make sure you have the files and/or links ready to go before the meeting begins. It also helps to send your material to your coordinator ahead of time on the chance you encounter an unexpected tech glitch.

Tip 5: Be present. Position your camera as though you were taking a photograph of yourself—straight on and nicely framed with a plain background. Consider raising your computer or device on a stack of books for a better perspective. Face a light source (window or lamp) so your bright and charming countenance isn't in shadow. Smile!

Tip 6: Be punctual. Take a few minutes ahead of your call to test your settings and then join the call a bit early to be sure you're "well connected."

Tip 7: Play to the camera. When on the call, speak into the camera as though you're speaking directly to a classmate. And remember: So long as your camera is active, you are always on display! People will notice when you're multitasking. But if you need a break or to step away from the meeting, simply remain muted and turn off your video.

Tip 8: Respect your classmates. Let others finish speaking without interrupting them. (Only one voice can be heard at a time!) In fact, let your coordinator or session leader manage the discussion. Raise your hand when you want to speak and try to keep your remarks brief and to the point.

Tip 9: Resolve tech issues offline. If you're having technical issues, avoid using class time to address them. Please contact us if you have tech issues.

Tip 10. Stay secure. Never, ever forward a Zoom link for an LLC class or post it on social media.

