



How to Use Theater as a Tool for Intercultural Understanding

Presenters: Kelli McLoud-Schingen and Dionne Lambert

One of the most powerful and under-utilized tools in cross cultural understanding is Theatre. Theatre is a form of storytelling that many feel that if they are not actors, or haven't studied theatre, they aren't equipped to work with theatre and drama as a tool.

Theatre is storytelling and it offers opportunities for listeners to merge the storyteller's experience with their own – resulting in connections that can turn into trance-formational experiences. Everyone is a storyteller. We live inside stories; we communicate through stories. We have become more concerned with ideology which creates polarities but experiencing theatre, we connect with the person in front of us and we are compelled to pull for them, want the best for them, for them to have a happy ending.

This interactive session will explore using theatre and story as ways to open connections with others and equip participants with a new tool for their work.

About the Presenters



Kelli McLoud-Schingen is Artistic Director of World Stage Theatre Company, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the University of Tulsa, and President of KMS Intercultural Consulting. She is a global diversity and inclusion specialist as well as a theatrical actor and director. She specializes in storytelling, cultural competence, and healing racism. She has been a facilitator for educational, non-profit, government and corporate institutions in the USA and internationally since 1989 deftly fusing her theatre and social justice training. A certified professional mediator, she holds a BA degree in Communication from Aurora University and a MA in Cross-Cultural Studies from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Kelli also trained with the Center for the Healing of Racism in Houston, TX. Her theatrical training was at Aurora University, Roosevelt University and a summer semester at the Oxford School of Drama in Oxford England. Kelli has performed as an amateur and professional actor in England, Chicago, Minneapolis, Houston and now, Tulsa. In

2017 Kelli founded the World Stage Theatre Company in Tulsa. This socially engaged theatre is an extension of her global diversity and inclusion work to further cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and compassion.



Dionne Lambert is Program Coordinator for the Center for Public Life at Oklahoma State University – Tulsa, where she facilitates community-focused dialogues through a trauma-informed lens and is currently leading a community-based research initiative that is focused on Black reproductive health equity in Tulsa. She is also the Founding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant for Chrysalis Consulting. Dionne’s perspectives include what psychiatrist Bruce Perry calls *post-traumatic wisdom**, inherited by her tumultuous upbringing on the south side of Chicago, IL. She received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK, where she learned to channel her grief and pain into service via ministry in the gospel choir she concurrently sang in for 10 years before finally graduating after 13 years. Dionne began singing at the age of 5 and used writing and storytelling as a form of therapy during her preteen years. While in college, Dionne was introduced to storytelling through song and theatre, and learned to incorporate what she’s learned as “edu-tainment” (entertaining educational tools) into her DEI presentations. To date, the most rewarding acting and storytelling experience Dionne has performed was as the indomitable lead character Ann Atwater in Mark St. Germain’s “Best of Enemies”, in a 10-day overseas tour to The Netherlands. She is currently a proud and active Board Member of World Stage Theatre Company, and most recently acted as Assistant Director in World Stage’s adaptation of Tug Yourgrau’s “Song of Jacob Zulu”.

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