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CASSIUS
★ **CLAY** ★

A PLAY BY
IDRIS GOODWIN

THE MAKING OF
MUHAMMAD
ALI



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MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, we create professional theater, foster inclusive community, and nurture meaningful learning through the arts.

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Metro Theater Company is a professional theater for young people and families and a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. It is a proud member of the Theatre Communications Group (the national service organization for non-profit professional theaters), Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (the U.S. chapter of the international association of theaters for young people) and Missouri Citizens for the Arts, as well as a proud Cultural Partner of the School District of Clayton. Metro Theater Company receives financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; the Regional Arts Commission; the Arts and Education Council; and numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Just one year ago, a colleague attended the premiere of ***And In This Corner... Cassius Clay*** in Louisville and was so moved by it that she sent me the script. She had never done that before. So, I sat down immediately to read it.

As I read, the hair on the back of my neck stood up. Here, in a play about events that took place half a century ago, were vivid moments that mirrored what was happening in our own community right now. This true story about the young life of Muhammad Ali was speaking directly to me across all the barriers that might have kept me from listening.

I am as different from the young characters at the center of this play as is possible. I am white. I am female. At the beginning of this journey, I knew almost nothing about boxing. My teen years are long behind me. I live in a different millennium.

And yet...

In the rhythm of Idris Goodwin's words, with the open-hearted passion and talents of the actors, designers and staff, and through the power of the community that supports the vision of this play, I have been welcomed into this world.

Theater creates a safe space for us to come together to see the world through another's eyes. The best moments of theater allow us to transcend our own experience and live for a moment in the world of someone quite different from us. It opens us to the possibility that through listening to each other, we have so much more to gain than we have to lose.

Welcome to the world of ***And In This Corner...Cassius Clay***.

JULIA FLOOD | DIRECTOR

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CASSIUS CLAY

A PLAY BY IDRIS GOODWIN

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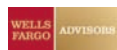
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★ **CLAY** ★

A PLAY BY **IDRIS GOODWIN**

THE MAKING OF
MUHAMMAD ALI



THE CAST (In alphabetical order)

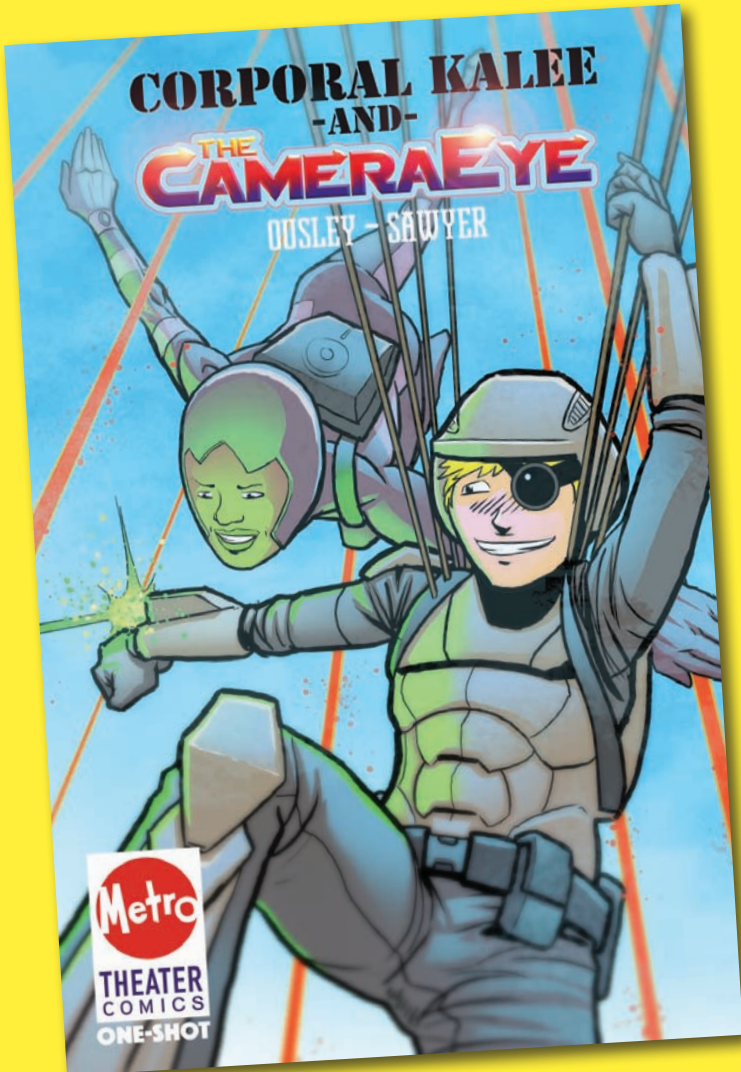
Phillip Dixon	CASSIUS CLAY, SR.
Katy Keating	ENSEMBLE/WHITE WAITRESS
Erik Kuhn	ENSEMBLE/ZBIGNIEW PIETRZYKOWSKI
Trigney Morgan	CASSIUS CLAY, JR.
Carl Overly, Jr.	CORKY BAKER
Jeanitta Perkins	ODESSA CLAY
Maalik Shakoor	SUGAR RAY ROBINSON/ENSEMBLE
Kenyata Tatum	ENSEMBLE/REPORTER
Nicolas Tayborn	RUDY CLAY
Jaz Tucker	EDDIE GREEN/SOAPBOX MAN
David Wassilak	OFFICER JOE MARTIN

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	JULIA FLOOD
Fight Director	DREW FRACHER
Set Designer and Technical Director	DAVID BLAKE
Costume Designer	LOU BIRD
Lighting Designer	PAIGE SEBER
Sound Designer	RUSTY WANDALL
Projections Designer	MICHAEL B. PERKINS
Props Designer	EMILY FREI
Production Manager	SARAH E. RUGO
Assistant Stage Manager	ANNA RICHARDS
Assistant Technical Director and Fight Captain	ERIK KUHN
Dialect Coach	KATY KEATING
Wardrobe/Run Crew Member	GENEVIEVE COLLINS
House Manager	MICHAEL CASSIDY FLYNN

In *And In This Corner...Cassius Clay*, young Cassius yearned for someone that he and his friends could look up to—someone who stood for everyone. As part of the production, Metro Theater Company worked with writer Jim Ousley and artist Ben Sawyer to create *Corporal Kaylee and the Camera Eye*, an interactive “Superhero” comic book where students focus on their own special abilities and realize that they can make a difference.

A digital version of the comic book is available at the Cassius website at CASSIUSPROJECT.COM





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★ THE CASSIUS PROJECT ★

THE CASSIUS PROJECT is a region-wide initiative built around Metro Theater Company's February 2016 production of Idris Goodwin's new play **AND IN THIS CORNER...CASSIUS CLAY** at the Missouri History Museum.

In the past year, tensions have been high as St. Louis struggles with racial and economic inequity, strained relationships with law enforcement and disenfranchised youth unsure of their role in our community.

Through the story of young Cassius Clay, Jr. (Muhammad Ali) and his life in Jim Crow Louisville, Kentucky, audiences will gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues that contribute to inequity in our community through a historical context. Audiences will be inspired by the decision of young Cassius Clay to reach beyond personal success to achieve greater community good.

THE CASSIUS PROJECT will offer a series of community programs, wrap-around tools and resources with the production that will educate audiences and then engage and empower them to find ways to get personally involved in making St. Louis a stronger community.



Muhammad Ali and first coach Officer Joe Martin

THE CASSIUS PROJECT OUTCOMES

With the potential to directly serve more than 11,000 people – over 8,000 of them youth – **THE CASSIUS PROJECT** presents an opportunity to begin long-term change in St. Louis and address youth disenfranchisement. Specific and measurable goals include:

- Attendance of thousands of youth at performances of **AND IN THIS CORNER...CASSIUS CLAY**, accompanied by post-performance facilitated dialogue
- Additional partner activities to deepen the conversation about issues of equity in St. Louis
- Online toolkit to provide information about the play and its historical context; resources and discussion questions for students and parents; curriculum connections and lesson plans for educators; and links to volunteer and education opportunities in the region and throughout the state for youth to take a personal role in strengthening St. Louis
- Classroom curriculum to support character education and curricular understanding, leading up to and following the production
- Interactive “Superhero” comic book for students to focus their own special abilities, and to realize that their lives matter and they can make a difference
- Community honoree initiative, ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES, to celebrate individuals across the St. Louis region who are inspiring others through their efforts on behalf of our community

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Partner list current as of printing 1/20/16

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



PHILLIP DIXON (*Cassius Clay, Sr.*)

is an actor who has had the pleasure of working with several professional companies in the St. Louis area, and is pleased to work with Metro Theater Company on this exciting production.

Phillip has also participated in new work development with Metro Theater Company and was last seen as part of the Company's forum theater ensemble, performing *Say Something, Do Something!* for area middle schoolers.



KATY KEATING (*Ensemble/White Waitress/Dialect Coach*)

loves working with Metro Theater Company! Last fall, she played Carol, Catie, and Cathy Cleary in Metro's touring production of *Talkin' Trash*. Katy

recently appeared in *The Runaway Cupcake* with Onsite Theatre and *Or What You Will* with Poor Monsters. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and love during this production; it's been a blast!



ERIK KUHN (*Ensemble/Zbigniew Pietrzykowski/Fight Captain*)

has built sets for Metro Theater Company before (including this one) and is thrilled to also be making his onstage debut with the Company. Between his work as an actor, fight director and technician, he only wishes there was more time in the day so he could see more of the wonderful theater happening here in St. Louis. Recent credits include Jack Rover in *Wild Oats* and Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* with St. Louis Shakespeare, Lighting Design for SATE's, *The 39 Steps*, Fight Direction at Washington University of St. Louis & Crossroads College Prep, as well as Technical Director for Upstream Theater and Visitation Academy.



TRIGNEY MORGAN (*Cassius Clay, Jr.*)

is delighted to be making his debut with Metro Theater Company in *And In This Corner...Cassius Clay*. Trigney lives in Chicago, and recently graduated from the theater school

at the University of Illinois at Chicago with a BFA in performing arts. He also has training from Chicago's famous Second City Theater in improv. Some of his favorite roles at UIC include: Red Carter in *Seven Guitars*, Cleomenes in *The Winters Tale*, and Rooftop in *Our Lady Of 121st Street*. He also played Charles in a new piece:

Leaves, Trees, Forest at the Green House Theater, for which he was nominated for best male actor by the Chicago Black Theater Alliance. His film credits include: a supporting role on NBC's *Chicago Fire* and multiple commercials (KFC, Sub Zero Refrigerator, and a Lollapalooza web commercial.) Trigney enjoys writing comedy and music. In Chicago, He is a part of a growing music collective called "Kid Made Modern" where he raps and performs. He would like to thank the Metro Theater Company family for welcoming him in. Trigney wishes to thank his family for all of their love and support, and dedicates his performance to his late grandmother, Ollie Mae Dodds.



CARL OVERLY, JR. (*Corky Baker*)

is thrilled to be making his mainstage debut with Metro Theater Company after appearing in their touring productions of *New Kid* (2007-2008) and *Say Something, Do Something*

(2013). Carl was last seen as Clown 1 in *The 39 Steps* with Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble. Carl has worked locally with The Black Rep, St. Louis Actors' Studio, Upstream Theater, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Magic Smoking Monkey and ERA (Equally Represented Arts) among others. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support. #Goseeplay



JEANITTA PERKINS (*Odessa Clay*)

is ecstatic to return to the Metro Theater Company stage! She has been a professional actress since 2010. Some of her favorite past productions include *Facing the Shadow* (Alice) with

The Black Rep, *The Further Adventures Of Hedda Gabbler* (Mammy) with St. Louis Shakespeare, and *Passing Strange* (Desi) with New Line Theatre. Jeanitta is a voice actor with NOW Talent Management and she has had the honor of performing Jazz at the Sheldon Concert Hall! Ms. Perkins is a nationally certified optician by trade and her adorable 3-year-old son has made his acting debut in a Laclede Gas commercial! Jeanitta would like to thank God and her family for their everlasting love and support.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



MAALIK SHAKOOR (*Sugar Ray Robinson/Ensemble*) is making his first appearance with Metro Theater Company. A film production student at Webster University, Maalik has both directed and acted in films

and commercials. Favorite stage performances include *Orders* by Kevin D. Ferguson, *How To Be Black* by Baratunde Thurston, and the SFSTL Shakespeare in the Streets production of *Good In Everything* based on Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Maalik was in the Cultural Leadership class of 2012 and was selected to be the group's spokesperson during a podcast with Rev. Al Sharpton.



KENYATA TATUM (*Ensemble/Reporter*) is an alumnus of the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL) where she received her BA in Theatre and Dance in May 2015. While at UMSL she was fortunate to have been cast in her

first lead role as Ova in *In the Red and Brown Water*. Since graduation, she has been involved with other projects such as: *The Runaway Cupcake* (Bakers Assistant) with Onsite Theatre, a short student film called "My Brother's Keeper," and modeling. She is also preparing for one of the biggest Latin dance festival showcases in Reno, Nevada, under the instruction of Evan Shuvo and Bethany Gray, as a member of Saint Louis Touch dance team. She would like to thank Metro Theater Company for the honor of being a part of such a wonderful production, as well as the cast and audience. She hopes you all will continue to support the arts.



NICOLAS TAYBORN (*Rudy Clay*) loves performing with Metro Theater Company. This is his third production with Metro Theater Company following his debut in *Unsorted* last fall. He's also served as a teaching artist/

assistant for Metro Theater Company's Creative Arts Camp this past summer. Some of his other favorite projects include *Grease*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *A Raisin In the Sun*, and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He attended the B.F.A. acting program at Southeast MO State University. Outside of theater, Nic also makes a living as a DJ. Nic would like to thank Metro Theater Company for the opportunities he's been given and their guidance on and off the stage; and his family and friends for all their support as he pursues his passion.



JAZ TUCKER (*Eddie Green/Soapbox Man*) performed his first acting role at the age of thirteen. Knowing this was his calling, his mother made him audition, and that was when Jaz knew he'd want to do this for the rest of his

life. Since then Jaz has gone on to be involved in several productions both on and off the stage including *The State of Mississippi vs. Emmett Till* (Emmett Till) with Unity Theatre Ensemble, *The Odd Couple* (Vinne) with KTK Productions, and *Scene Two and Bleacher Bums* at Forest Park Community College. His favorite role was Reverend Hooker in *Dearly Departed* with the Theatre Guild of Webster Groves. Jaz also has a YouTube channel, "Same Difference."



DAVID WASSILAK (*Officer Joe Martin*) last performed with Metro Theater Company as Branch Rickey in *Jackie and Me* and as Father in *The Giver*. Most recently he was seen as Nick in *Sight Unseen* at The New Jewish

Theatre where he also played The Writer in *The Good Doctor*. David played Doctor Royer-Collard in *Quills* at Max & Louie Productions. He has performed with Stray Dog Theatre as twins John and Jeckyll in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and also as Roy Cohn in both parts of *Angels in America* for which he was honored with a St. Louis Theater Circle Award. He has worked with St. Louis Actors' Studio, West End Players Guild, St. Louis Shakespeare, The Midnight Company, The New Theatre, Orthwein Theatre Company, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Theatre Project Company and more. David teaches adult acting classes at COCA.



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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

LOU BIRD (Costume Designer) is pleased to be returning to Metro Theater Company to design *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*. Other designs for Metro Theater Company include: *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem, Jackie and Me, Unsorted, Super Cowgirl and Mighty Miracle, Battledrum, Tomato Plant Girl, The Giver, To Kill a Mockingbird, Go, Dog, Go!, New Kid* and *Hana's Suitcase*. Lou's many design credits include Stages St. Louis, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Imaginary Theatre Company and Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. Lou is Program Director for Theatre at Saint Louis University, where he also teaches costume design and construction, as well as stage combat.

DAVID BLAKE (Set Designer and Technical Director) is pleased to be working on such an important play. Past design credits with Metro Theater Company include *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem* and *Talkin' Trash*. Other St. Louis scenic design credits include Stray Dog Theatre's *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (St. Louis Theatre Circle Nomination), *Spring Awakening, Gypsy*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (St. Louis Theatre Circle Nomination); *Winning Juliet* with Shakespeare Festival St. Louis; *Kosher Lutherans* with HotCity Theatre; and *Mary Shelley Monster Show* with Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble. David is technical director for Metro Theater Company and for Clayton High School's theater department. Love to family, friends and to Paul.

JULIA FLOOD (Artistic Director/Director) has directed *Talkin' Trash, Afflicted: Daughters of Salem, Unsorted* and *Say Something, Do Something!* for Metro Theater Company since she moved to St. Louis to become Artistic Director in February 2014. Previously, Julia spent 16 years as Artistic Director of Eckerd Theater Company in Clearwater, Florida, where she commissioned such plays as *Vote?* by Eric Coble, provoked by Florida's role in the 2000 Presidential election, and *Battledrum* by Doug Cooney with Lee Ahlin, a musical about the effects of war on young people through the lens of Civil War drummer boys, subsequently produced at Metro Theater Company. A graduate of Northwestern University, Julia spent seven years as a resident member of the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble in Pennsylvania, a unique artist-led ensemble founded under the guidance of legendary acting teacher Alvina Krause, before following a free-lance career as actor/director/playwright/teacher. This path led to Florida and eventually to her new artistic home in St. Louis. Julia is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the Dramatists Guild, has served on the national Board of Directors of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA since 2011, and brings more than 35 years of experience to her role as Artistic Director of Metro Theater Company.

DREW FRACHER (Fight Director) is a director, fight director and actor who has freelanced professionally for over thirty years. He has directed plays from Shakespeare to world premieres at regional theatres throughout the U.S., and has staged fights for over two hundred and fifty professional productions, including Broadway and grand opera. Drew serves as a fight master with the Society of American Fight Directors. His work as a fight director has been seen at theatres throughout the United States, including Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The George Street Playhouse, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and the Alabama and Kentucky Shakespeare Festivals, Georgia Shakespeare, and Cincinnati Shakespeare Company.

EMILY FREI (Props Designer) is a scenic artist and props artisan for many theaters in St. Louis. A member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, she paints for The Muny, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and The Repertory Theatre. Emily designed props for Metro Theater Company's productions of *Battledrum* and *Jackie and Me* and is happy to be working on her third production with Metro Theater Company.

IDRIS GOODWIN (Playwright) is a playwright, rapper and essayist. His plays include *How We Got On, Remix 38* (Actors Theater of Louisville); *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay* (StageOne Family Theater), *This is Modern Art* (Steppenwolf), *Blackademics* (MPAACT, Crowded Fire), *Bars and Measures* (B Street Theatre, NNPN RWP), and *The Raid* (Jackalope Theatre). Goodwin is one of the six playwrights featured in *Hands Up*, an anthology commissioned by The New Black Fest. *Hands Up* has been presented across the country. His latest play *The Realness* will have a world premiere in 2016 at Merrimack Repertory Theatre. He is the recipient of Oregon Shakespeare's American History Cycle Commission and InterAct Theater's 20/20 Award. Goodwin has been a writer in residence at The Eugene O'Neil Playwrights Center, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor Program, The Lark Playwriting Center and New Harmony Project. An accomplished Hip Hop poet, his albums include *Break Beat Poems* and *Rhyming While Black*. Goodwin was featured on HBO, Sesame Street and Discovery Channel. He is the author of the pushcart nominated essay collection, *These Are the Breaks* (Write Bloody, 2011). Goodwin is the co-host and contributor to *Critical Karaoke*, a radio show and podcast about music and culture. Idris teaches performance writing and Hip Hop aesthetics at Colorado College.

ERIK KUHN (Assistant Technical Director)
Please see Erik's bio in the Cast Bios section.

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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

MICHAEL B. PERKINS (Projections Design) designs audio/visual elements for local theatre and is also the Education & Community Projects Manager for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. Recent projects include *9 Parts of Desire* (UMSL), *The Kiss* (Upstream Theatre), *Tales of Shakespeare* (Shakespeare Festival St. Louis), Wagner's 4-part *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (Union Avenue Opera), *The Killing of Sister George* (Max & Louie Productions), *Imagining Madoff* and *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (New Jewish Theater). He's also designed for Mustard Seed Theatre, Dramatic License Productions, Action for Autism, Clayton High School, Crossroads College Prep, and others. Upcoming: *How We Got On* (UMSL) and BRIEF5 LGBT Short Play Festival. Love to Ser Robert, Kit, & Gloriana. Thanks David, Julia, the Metro team, and MHM. MichaelBPerkins.com

ANNA RICHARDS (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to join the Metro Theater Company team with her first assistant stage managing position. Anna graduated from Washington University in St. Louis last May with a BA in Drama. While her ultimate love is directing, Anna is loving exploring all areas of theater. She has recently been seen as Mrs. Brennan in *Telegraph* and just completed directing a long-term labor of love, *A Day in the Life*. She would like to thank Metro Theater Company for taking a chance on her, and her family and friends for always encouraging her eccentric dreams.

SARAH E. RUGO (Production Manager), is in her twelfth season with Metro Theater Company and in that time has stage managed twelve touring productions and twelve mainstage productions for the company. After earning her BFA in musical theatre from Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia, she completed an internship with Lexington Children's Theatre before moving to St. Louis to work for Metro Theater Company in 2004. In addition to taking Metro Theater Company's touring productions to hundreds of local and regional schools and community centers, Sarah has overseen Metro Theater Company mainstage productions in St. Louis venues such as The Missouri History Museum (*Afflicted: Daughters of Salem, Battledrum*), Wydown Middle School (*The Boy Who Loved Monsters and the Girl Who Loved Peas*), Clayton High School (*Interrupting Vanessa*), the West County YMCA (*Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*), COCA (*Go, Dog. Go!*) and Edison Theatre (*Hana's Suitcase, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Giver, Jackie and Me*). During her summer-time hiatus from Metro, Sarah has worked for Opera Theatre St. Louis, and stage managed for Union Avenue Opera. Sarah thanks her husband, Adam, for his ongoing support in the form of food, presence and love.

PAIGE SEBER (Lighting Designer) is happy to be returning to Metro Theater Company after designing *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem* last season. Paige graduated from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis last May with a BFA in Lighting Design and is now based out of New York City. Recent credits include assistant lighting design for *Bridges of Madison County* (1st National Tour) and *Perfect Arrangement* (off-Broadway premier); and lighting design for *Big Love* (Havana Theatre Festival). seberlighting.com

RUSTY WANDALL (Sound Designer) is excited to return to Metro Theater Company for *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*. He is currently Head of Sound Design at Webster University and the Resident Sound Designer at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis. He has also worked locally with Variety Children's Theatre, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, HotCity Theatre, and Mustard Seed Theatre. He also serves as the Sound Designer and Engineer for the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival in Kansas City. Rusty holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Sound Design from the University of Missouri- Kansas City. He would like to thank God for his countless blessings and his wife Marian for her unending love and support.

REMEMBERING A METRO THEATER COMPANY FRIEND



**SUSAN
"SUZI"
SARGEANT
McDONALD**

Our good friend Suzi McDonald made certain that young people in central Illinois experienced first-rate, professional theater. Founder of the Youth Series at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign, Suzi presented many of Metro Theater Company's productions there over the years. Her death in 2004 came much too soon.

A memorial fund in Suzi's name has been established to ensure that young people have continued access to Metro Theater Company's artistic programs.

ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

To many, many people across the globe, Muhammad Ali is a real-life superhero.

Here in St. Louis we have our own real-life superheroes, individuals who make our community better by using their strengths to serve others. During the run of *And In This Corner...Cassius Clay*, Metro Theater Company honors ten ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES, who inspire all of us with their exploits.

These ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES are role models to our youth, teachers of what is precious, defenders of struggling families, guardians of childhood, positive advocates for inclusion and builders of cultural bridges.

With the support of sponsors throughout St. Louis, as well as from other corners of the universe, Metro Theater Company dedicates a performance of *And In This Corner...Cassius Clay* to each of these ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES:

1. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:30 PM:

WILLIAM "SARGE" ANDERSON AND ANTHONY ANDERSON, SR.

2. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7:30 PM: RONALD L. JACKSON

3. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2:00 PM: DIANE DAVENPORT

4. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 7:30 PM: JAYLEN D. BLEDSOE

5. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 PM: CHERYL MAAYAN

6. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2:00 PM: HONORABLE JIMMIE M. EDWARDS

7. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7:30 PM: AISHA SULTAN

8. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7:30PM:

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, MISSOURI/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

9. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2:00 PM: TIMOTHY O'LEARY

Metro Theater Company celebrates these ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES and looks forward to their continued impact on our community.

Jason McAdamis | BOARD PRESIDENT

Sponsor lists reflect commitments made by January 19, 2016.



ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7:30 PM

WILLIAM “SARGE” ANDERSON AND HIS SON ANTHONY ANDERSON, SR.

★ SUPERPOWER: FATHERHOOD

William Anderson will tell you that what made the difference in his life were two St. Louis police officers. These two strong father figures used boxing programs to mentor William and other kids in his poor and violent neighborhood. Inspired to be like the officers, William joined the Metropolitan Police Department of the City of St. Louis (MPD). During his 30-year career with MPD, William rose to sergeant and detective, and also became a father figure to many young men through boxing programs, ultimately helping to create the Police Athletic League (PAL). The sixth of William’s seven children, Anthony, who goes by “Tony,” notes that giving back was simply expected when he was growing up in the Anderson household. Tony remembers seeing his father take others to the boxing gym and wanting to go along. Tony always wanted to do what his father did. He very deliberately patterned himself after his father, striving to “mirror” William in himself. So Tony joined MPD, where his 20-year career included mentoring kids through boxing – just as his father and his father’s mentors had done before. Today, though both retired from the police force, father and son continue to use boxing to mentor young people through their work with the PAL at Innovative Concept Academy. With a mission of instilling athletic skill, strong character and pride in positive accomplishment in the youth they serve, it should come as no surprise to hear how the young boxers address William and Tony: “Dad.”



SARGE'S PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

Major James Festus Reddick
Lt. Colonel Tom Brooks
Sonny Liston

TONY'S PERSONAL SUPERHERO:

“My father is my hero.”

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and Frances Morales-Neufeld

★ SUPERHERO FACT:

William “Sarge” Anderson once served with other detectives as “bodyguards” for Muhammad Ali, who was visiting St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7:30 PM

RONALD L. JACKSON

★ SUPERPOWER: INCLUSION

Ron Jackson has always been keenly aware of inclusion or its absence. When Ron was 6, his parents bought a house in an all-white neighborhood in Kansas City; a white neighbor spit racial slurs at Ron's family and complained "We're gonna have to move!" Later in St. Louis when Ron enrolled in Soldan High School, the student body was about half black and half white; by the time he graduated in 1961, only 17 of 144 students were white. Ron considered playing basketball at then Southeast Missouri State, until his coach took him to visit the segregated residential and dining facilities. After graduating from Washington University in 1965, followed by four years in the army, Ron became an admissions officer at Illinois State. There he worked in a special program to admit and support students of color. Ron returned to Washington University in 1971 as the assistant director of admissions and later as an assistant dean, recruiting and mentoring many African-American students. Other places soon needed Ron's superpowers: Senator Jack Danforth invited Ron to join his staff; the ADL tapped Ron to become the director of "A World of Difference," a prejudice awareness and reduction program; later, Ron headed up what we now know as the National Conference for Community & Justice. When Senator Danforth started InterAct, an organization to form partnerships across faith and race lines to mentor urban children, he asked Ron to lead the new organization, which paved the way for other St. Louis inter-faith and interracial programs. Ron "retired" in 2010, but that hasn't slowed down this superhero from working tirelessly to make St. Louis more inclusive.



PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

*His mother, Izella Jackson
Percy Greene
Dr. Martin Luther King
Ivory Perry
Jamala Rogers
Norman Seay
Carter G. Woodson*

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ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2:00 PM

DIANE DAVENPORT

★ SUPERPOWER: HARMONY

Diane Davenport grew up in the pleasant Chicago suburb of Mount Prospect. Her father made sure his children knew that not everyone was so fortunate, such as when he took his kids for a drive through Chicago's "skid row." A professional musician in her teens, Diane imagined her future as a music teacher and enrolled at Millikin University. Among her fellow music majors, Diane made her first friends of color. It was Diane who suggested that their group attend the March on Washington in August 1963. Camping out in a sleeping bag near the front of the Lincoln Memorial, Diane witnessed "a whole new world" at the March. When Diane's husband got a job with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the young couple moved to University City, where Diane signed up to be a substitute teacher. It didn't take long before the school district hired Diane as a full-time itinerant elementary music specialist. Diane had the proverbial front row seat to the white flight taking place as restrictive housing covenants in University City could no longer legally stand. Amid the tension, the school district was impressed by the harmony Diane was creating, and Diane understood the power of music to break down walls that divide people. She spent almost 25 years in the School District of University City, eventually heading up music programming district-wide. Later at New City School, Diane deepened her commitment to the performing arts as a vehicle for education. Though formally "retired" now, Diane continues to lead classroom residencies and workshops. She aspires to enable the whole world to be in harmony. As Diane says, "We need to sing more."

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FERRING FAMILY FOUNDATION



Diane Davenport c. 1975 leads students at Delmar-Harvard Elementary in performing R&B music during the ice cream social.

PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

*Her children,
Lora Jane Davenport & Jeremy Davenport
Marian Wright Edelman
Dr. Martin Luther King
President Barack Obama*

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Rosalyn and Robert Wykes
Kristen Wymore
Mary Ann L. Wymore

ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 7:30 PM

JAYLEN D. BLEDSOE

★ SUPERPOWER: INITIATIVE

Jaylen D. Bledsoe remembers having a strong sense of self even in kindergarten. The oldest of eight children in a family where sports is the lingua franca and business is a foreign idea, Jaylen credits the gifted program in the Hazelwood School District for preparing him for computers and computer languages. But it was Jaylen who taught himself to code the summer after sixth grade. Within two years and still in middle school, Jaylen was earning \$100 per hour as an IT consultant. Even before completing ninth grade, Jaylen had built a business with some 150 contractors and revenues of multi-millions. Today Jaylen is the chairman and CEO of The Jaylen D. Bledsoe Global Group, a set of linked businesses, such as The Flare Digital Agency, a digital strategy and brand development consultancy; and programs, such as Young Entrepreneur University, designed to encourage other youth to become entrepreneurs. There's also Jaylen the motivational speaker, who in the last two years has inspired some 75,000 students all over the country. And somehow, between his businesses, high school work and college applications, Jaylen still finds time to advocate and volunteer on behalf of youth – for example he was the youngest person ever to serve as president of the National Youth Rights Association, and he is involved with Gateway2Change, a youth-led response to Ferguson. Jaylen now looks forward to late March, when he will turn 18 and thus be able to legally own the businesses he has built. We don't expect that to change Jaylen, though, or his dedication to encouraging others to pursue their own dreams.



PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

Bill Gates
Scott Schnuck



ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 7:30 PM

CHERYL MAAYAN

★ SUPERPOWER: DISCOVERY

The youngest of three children, Cheryl Maayan didn't really know what she wanted to do when she graduated from Ladue Horton Watkins High School in 1986. She attended several colleges, and along the way happened to take a side job teaching Hebrew School. In teaching, Cheryl discovered the awesome power of educators, who "can get kids excited about anything in the world." She also discovered that she has the superpower of being able to get kids to discover their own special talents. Inspired by several mentors, Cheryl became a Jewish educator. Today as head of school at Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School, Cheryl insists on total learning in a joyful atmosphere. For example, during Chanukah (the eight-day Jewish festival of lights) Mirowitz students forfeit a night of their own gifts to participate in a schoolwide philanthropy project: *Tamchui* (a Hebrew word for collection pot). Designed to engage students in meaningful social justice learning and action, *Tamchui* helps them become educated and empathetic young philanthropists who every day decide how to each allocate two tokens among five beneficiary organizations. As the week unfolds and some organizations receive more tokens than others, students will often discover a shift in how they approach their giving. At the end of the week, students find practical application of their math skills, counting tokens and calculating allocations of funds. *Tamchui* is only one way Cheryl Maayan is shaping a community of young leaders who, through provocative and thoughtful experiences, are discovering what they are passionate about and how they might make a positive difference.



PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

*Her parents,
Rabbi Jeffrey and Dr. Arlene Stiffman
her children,
Gabe and Ari*

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ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2:00 PM

HONORABLE JIMMIE M. EDWARDS

★ SUPERPOWER: TRANSFORMATION

As a kid in a public elementary school in the shadow of the Pruitt-Igoe housing project, young Jimmie Edwards wondered and dreamed about life outside what he today calls his “tiny universe.” But even more important to that young man than life elsewhere was his desire to please his mother who was raising him on her own. He was passionate about doing what made his mother happy and avoiding what made her sad.

When the future jurist attended Vashon High School, he was a very good student. However, his friends were not such good students and, worse, got themselves into the kind of trouble that often resulted in suspensions and expulsions. While his grades were strong, his college ambitions were not set high; Jimmie Edwards planned to follow his less academically-inclined friends. His outlook changed when recruiters from Saint Louis University (SLU) showed an interest in him, and his mother let him know how important that was. At SLU, he learned that what you do for others is the important thing in life, that doing good matters most.

By the time he graduated from college, Jimmie Edwards had concluded that the legal profession would be the best way for him to help the least among us. He believed that as a lawyer he could give voice to the voiceless, and in the years since has proven that commitment over and over. Now internationally-recognized, Judge Edwards has not only transformed the legal experience for youth and families, but he has also become a catalyst for transformation for countless troubled juveniles. Partnering with Saint Louis Public Schools and MERS Goodwill, Judge Edwards founded Innovation Concept Academy (ICA) in 2009 to reach youth who have been failed by regular schools. Many of those young people – like his younger self from the same neighborhood where ICA now sits – are finally finding their own transformation.

His Honor wishes he had the kind of powers found in comic books so that he could remove violence, inequality and bias from the world, and transform it into a place of respect and equal opportunity for all. For now, Judge Jimmie Edwards works towards these goals with just an ordinary robe, a capacious human mind and a loving heart. That would make any mother proud.

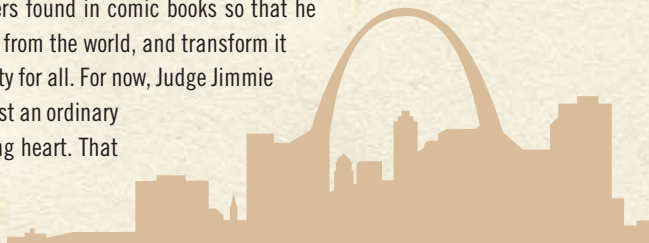


PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

*Judge Clyde S. Cahill, Jr.
Elbert Dorsey
Justice Thurgood Marshall
Margaret Bush Wilson*

And near peers whose example motivated him:

*Freeman Bosley, Jr.
Dorothy White Coleman
Darlene Green
Darryl Jones
Reuben Shelton*



ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7:30 PM

AISHA SULTAN

★ SUPERPOWER: COURAGE

Inspired by her immigrant parents' courage to make a life in the United States, Aisha Sultan has become an American success story. It must have taken a certain kind of courage to be the only Muslim-American student in Aisha's suburban Houston high school. In college, Aisha worked on the school newspaper, and had the daring to go after and score competitive summer newspaper internships. After graduation, Aisha enrolled in a program to pursue a PhD in Sociology. But a few months later the *Wall Street Journal* called to offer her a paid internship. Aisha had the courage to accept that temporary offer, taking a leave of absence from graduate school. After that internship, the *Post-Dispatch* (where she had worked one summer) offered Aisha a job, which she accepted – despite personal fears that she was running away from her family and her thesis. However, St. Louis has been both professionally and personally rewarding. Here Aisha met her beloved husband, with whom she has a daughter and a son. After the kids were born, Aisha made the move from news reporter to columnist, writing about families and issues affecting them. Now nationally-syndicated, Aisha not only addresses parenting but also how families interact with sensitive topics such as guns, race and religion. Defining herself as an ordinary Muslim-American woman, Aisha is a mother, wife and working parent who shares the concerns of all parents. She is outspoken in her defense of the American values of diversity and inclusion. As a community, we especially need courageous parents – like Aisha Sultan – willing to speak openly and honestly about what it means to value and respect others.



photo credit: Preston Merchant

PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

Her parents,
Shaukat and Shahida Sultan
AND her teachers, especially
Mr. David Schultz
Dr. Sussan Siavoshi
Dr. Michael Kearl
Dr. Colleen Grissom
Ms. Vicki Ashwill
Ruth Grozdins
Ann Grozdins Gold
– all of whom taught her to think
and to recognize how big the world is.

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A SINGLE ACT OF INCLUSION CAN CHANGE HISTORY

A Jewish-American young woman traveling in Turkey was given hospitality by a man who was the eldest brother of Aisha Sultan's (future) father. He told that American traveler to look up his brother were she ever in Pakistan – which she later did. A few years after that, Aisha's father had his name randomly selected in a U.S. visa drawing. But to actually use the visa, he needed an American citizen to vouch for him financially. The older brother reached out to the young American, who convinced her mother, a University of Chicago professor, to be his brother's sponsor. And that's why Aisha Sultan was born in Chicago.



ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 7:30PM

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, MISSOURI/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

★ SUPERPOWER: JUSTICE

In popular culture, the concept of justice is sometimes confused with high-drama courtroom scenes and riveting police shows. But unlike an hour-long television episode, the actual pursuit of justice is a long-term effort to achieve the moral and democratic ideals that we cherish as Americans. This belief that we have a moral and legal responsibility to address bigotry and discrimination and resulting inequity is at the heart of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Founded in 1913, the ADL through information, education, legislation and advocacy continues to fight for the civil rights of all who live in this country. The St. Louis-based Anti-Defamation League, Missouri/Southern Illinois – which also covers Greater Kansas City – opened in 1958; its largest education program, the A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute, started in 1987. Other ADL programs include No Place For Hate®, an anti-bias awareness campaign for schools; Echoes & Reflections, a multimedia Holocaust curriculum; Miller Early Childhood Initiative, stopping prejudice before it starts; and additional K-12 programs, as well as resources for campuses and workplaces. The St. Louis ADL and its Institute maintain a large and experienced cadre of education professionals to engage youth, educators, parents, employees and police with unique and collaborative approaches to instill understanding and fairness, as well as to combat hate and bias. In a moment where our community is looking inward to create a more equitable and tolerant St. Louis, we are fortunate to have the ADL embedded in communities throughout the region and across Missouri and in Illinois.



INSTITUTIONAL SUPERHEROES:

*The partnership between
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*



ST. LOUIS SUPERHEROES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2:00 PM

TIMOTHY O'LEARY

★ SUPERPOWER: COMPASSION

At age six, Timothy O'Leary was given an audio cassette of the Beethoven piece he and other Suzuki violin students were learning to play. He was so struck by the beauty of what he heard that he wept. The music opened up Tim to a new range of emotion. In high school, he joined the choir. By his junior year, Tim's singing had become good enough to get him a spot in the chorus of the Yale Opera summer production of *The Magic Flute*. The next summer Tim was in the chorus for *The Marriage of Figaro*, an opera that continues to shape Tim's understanding of forgiveness. Though music was not his major in college, Tim kept studying singing and then directing. At graduation he was unsure about the arts as a real career, but he sought and landed a development job at a major opera company. As many know, Tim's career uncertainty did not last long. Today, as General Director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, he has distinguished himself with artistic and fundraising triumphs; he has also shown himself a champion of using the compassion in music to help communities heal. In collaboration with civic and arts leaders, Tim established an annual September 11th interfaith commemorative concert. He was also one of the instigators of #WithNormandy: A Concert for Peace and Unity, a star-studded musical performance with the Normandy High School choir created to tell a different kind of story about our community and what our community wants to be. As artists and St. Louisans, we're proud that Timothy O'Leary applies the arts and arts education as a balm to our community.



PERSONAL SUPERHEROES:

William Shakespeare
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

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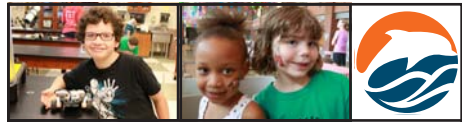
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MUHAMMAD ALI AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Muhammad Ali grew up under what were known as “Jim Crow Laws.” These were federal, state and local laws in the United States (1876-1965) that mandated racial segregation in all public facilities. Segregation is the act of isolating a race or class from the rest of the population. Supposedly, these laws created a “separate but equal” experience for African Americans. But in reality, these laws led to facilities that were inferior to those provided for the sole use of Caucasian Americans. Some examples of these laws in Kentucky were:

- *It was unlawful for children of different races to attend the same school.*
- *Intermarriage between white persons and persons of color was prohibited.*
- *All public parks, recreation centers, playgrounds, etc. were segregated.*

MUHAMMAD ALI QUOTES

“ I’ve made my share of mistakes along the way, but if I have changed even one life for the better, I haven’t lived in vain. ”

“ The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life. ”

“ Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth. ”

“ He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life. ”

“ You don’t really lose when you fight for what you believe in. You lose when you fail to fight for what you care about. ”

“ It isn’t the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it’s the pebble in your shoe. ”

“ I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.’ ”

“ If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it — then I can achieve it. ”

“ The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up. ”

“ The man who has no imagination has no wings. ”

“ Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It’s not something you learn in school. But if you haven’t learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven’t learned anything. ”

“ Don’t count the days, make the days count. ”

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QUESTIONS FOR THE RIDE HOME

- What would have happened if Cassius never ran into Officer Joe Martin and “whupped” the people who stole his bike?
- Muhammad Ali, often referred to as “The Greatest of All Time,” began as teenage Cassius Clay Jr. What made him so great? What does it take to become “Great”?
- How does the death of Emmett Till affect Cassius and his family? Has national news ever had a profound impact on you? How so?
- What makes Cassius stand up to Corky Baker? Have you ever stood up for what you believed in? What gave you the courage?
- Why did Cassius stay in school, when all he wanted to do was box?
- Some words have a lot of power and are used to oppress others and make them feel worthless. What words have you heard that hold that power? Why do people use them?
- In what ways are Cassius and Eddie similar? How are they different?
- Cassius is disappointed when he meets his hero Sugar Ray Robinson, but that meeting inspires him to become a hero himself. Who are your heroes? Why? How can you become more like them?
- Cassius is able to overcome his fear of flying to go to the Olympics. What fears have you already faced? How did you do it?
- Cassius and Rudy aren’t allowed to eat in the “white only” diner. How would you respond if you were excluded from something that your friends were allowed to do?
- Why do you think people still talk about Muhammad Ali?

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Labeled as the “Sportsman of the Century,” Muhammad Ali is an inspiration as both an athlete and activist for religious freedom and racial justice. This timeline illustrates key moments in the both the life of Muhammad Ali as well as major events in the Civil Rights Movement. See how young Cassius Clay Jr., amid the turmoil of the Civil Right Movement, went on to become the “Greatest of All Time.”



1942 Muhammad Ali was born as Cassius Clay Jr. on January 17th in Louisville, KY to Odessa and Cassius Marcellus Clay.

1944 Clay's brother Rudy is born. Rudy followed in his brother's footsteps to become boxer, Rahman Ali.

1954 After his bike is stolen, Clay begins training with police officer and boxing coach Joe Martin. Six weeks later he wins his first fight against Ronnie O'Keefe.

Brown vs. Board of Education ends legal segregation in public schools.

1955 14-year-old Emmett Till is murdered after allegedly flirting with a white woman.

Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man, sparking the year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott.

1960 Clay graduates from high school, overcomes his fear of flying and wins a gold medal in the Rome Olympics against Polish fighter Zbigniew Pietrzykowski.

1963 Clay appears on the cover of Sports Illustrated for the first time. During his career he has graced the cover 39 times.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech to over 200,000 people gathered for the March on Washington.

The bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL by members of the Klu Klux Klan kills four girls and injures 22 others. While the event was not prosecuted until 1977, it did lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

1964 Cassius Clay defeats Sonny Liston, winning the world heavyweight championship at age 22. He changes his name to Muhammad Ali.

The Civil Rights Act is passed outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

1965 Despite violent opposition from local law enforcement, three separate marches from Selma to Montgomery, AL took place in support of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in voting.

1966 Ali is drafted to serve in Vietnam, but refuses to fight on religious grounds.

1967 Ali is stripped of all titles, banned from boxing for three years and convicted of refusing induction into the Army. He is sentenced to five years in prison, but freed on bail after several appeals.

Loving vs. Virginia invalidates laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

1968 Ali is ridiculed by the media, but Martin Luther King, Jr. comes to his defense. “He is giving up millions of dollars to do what his conscience tells him is right.”

King is assassinated, sparking unrest and civil disorder in 124 cities across the country.

1969 Marvel Comics introduces Falcon, the first mainstream African-American superhero.

1971 The Supreme Court rules in favor of Ali, overturning his previous conviction and enabling him to fight again. Publicly taunted with racial slurs by Joe Frazier, Ali challenges him in the ring. Billed as the “Fight of the Century,” Ali suffers his first defeat. Years later he would challenge Frazier again and win...twice.

1977 Ali's youngest daughter, Laila, is born. In 2007, she retired from professional boxing undefeated.

1978 Ali became a real superhero starring in the comic book Superman vs. Muhammad Ali.

1981 Muhammad Ali retires from boxing with an overall record of 56 victories, 5 losses and 37 knockouts.

1990 Ali secures the release of 14 American hostages held in Iraq during the Gulf War.

1992 Race riots erupt in Los Angeles after a jury acquits four white police officers for the videotaped beating of Rodney King, an African American taxi driver.

1996 Ali lights the Olympic flame in Atlanta, GA.

2005 Ali is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for being “an inspirational figure to millions of people around the world.”

2014 Muhammad Ali posts his first selfie on Instagram.

The shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO sparks protests, riots and national debate about racial inequality in the United States.

2015 Sports Illustrated renames its legacy award for former athletes “who embody the ideals of sportsmanship, leadership and philanthropy as vehicles for changing the world” in honor of Muhammad Ali.

During a prayer service at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC, nine people were killed by a gunman hoping to ignite a race war.

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Over two thirds of the Metro Theater Company operating budget comes from donations. These contributions make it possible for Metro Theater Company to offer **reduced cost tickets** to performances, to provide **subsidized tours to schools**, and to develop the **next play** or program that will reach young people and all members of our community.

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Did you know Metro Theater Company works in schools every day?

Collaboration and community are vital to the success of our programs. Working hand-in-hand with schools and community organizations, our teaching artists create programs to meet specific needs. Community partners throughout the St. Louis region and the state of Missouri turn to us year after year because they value the ways Metro Theater Company supports meaningful learning through the arts with their students.

No two Metro Theater Company education programs are exactly alike. Some programs focus on integrating the arts across core curriculum content, some programs emphasize social justice and character education, and some – such as our after school programs – invite students to create original characters and stories. While each program is unique, they all activate imaginative learning in a fun and inclusive environment.



Whatever the content, these characteristics prevail in all our programs:

EXCELLENT TEACHING ARTISTS:

Our teaching artists know their art form, they know children and they understand how to create an optimal learning experience.

NURTURING CREATIVE HABITS:

We believe everyone has creative abilities, that creative thinking is a habit that can be developed in every student and that drama is one vehicle to nurture creativity and support success in every field of endeavor, not just the arts.

DEEP AND MEANINGFUL LEARNING:

Students learn how drama connects them to a larger world, how drama supports the development of social and emotional skills, and how drama connects to other subjects in the curriculum. We insist that the *process* be meaningful and full of rich learning.

A SAFE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF COLLABORATORS:

Our programs create a supportive, rather than a competitive environment where all young people can thrive regardless of their skill or experience level. Immersion in dramatic activity invites everyone in the room to become an artist, and success is defined by what we create *together*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Karen Webberman

Education Director

314.932.7414 x110

Karen@metroplays.org

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- Observe and discuss what's really going on "between the lines"
- Interview the characters who are put in the "hot-seat"
- Create tableaux of what happened before and after the incident
- Script the inner thoughts and feelings of the protagonist using a "thought bubble"

Ultimately, the audience offers ideas for ways the protagonist can alter the balance of power for a better outcome in the situation. Audience members may even replace the actors to improvise their own strategies! Critical thinking plays a big role as we play out multiple strategies and reflect upon how well each of them would work in real life.



Metro Theater Company did a beautiful job establishing a 'SAFE PLACE' FOR STUDENTS to share their thoughts and feelings. The students clearly enjoyed the process and learned more about steps they can take leading to a **POSITIVE RESOLUTION** if they're ever confronted with a similar situation.



- John Simpson
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Webster Groves School District

- AUDIENCE RECOMMENDATION:** Grades 5-12
AUDIENCE SIZE: Up to 75 per session
PROGRAM DURATION: 45 minutes
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up to four sessions in single site just \$1,600



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Students entering grades 6-8

\$575

Location: SLU, Midtown



**Grand Theater Camp:
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Mon-Fri, June 20-July 1, 9am-4pm

Students entering 9th grade through recent grads

\$575

Location: SLU, Midtown

Grand Theater Camp: Puppetry-High School

Mon-Fri: July 11-15, 9am-4pm

Students entering 9th grade through recent grads

\$300*

Location: SLU, Midtown

*Register for both High School and Puppetry camp and receive \$75 off your total enrollment

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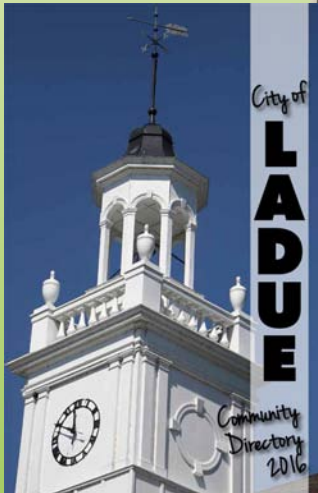
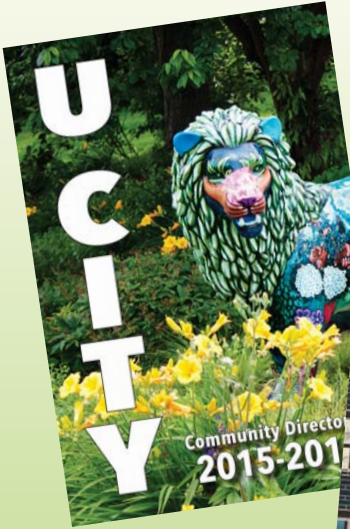
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New Kid

By Dennis Foon

Nick is new. He doesn't speak the language or know the customs. The other kids make fun of him and call him names. Nick's mother urges him to be brave, assuring him he'll learn to fit in. Meanwhile, she struggles with her own issues of assimilation in this new place that doesn't feel like home to either of them. Foon's imaginative script gives audiences an avenue for empathy with Nick's situation. He and his mother speak English, while all the other characters speak an invented language!

An important play for everyone who's ever felt new and for all of us who need reminders about accepting those who are different, *New Kid* explores issues of bullying and intolerance in a story about finding a friend in a new place.

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Office of Minority Health

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Peter Lyskowski
Acting Director

Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon
Governor

Joseph Palm
Chief

The Office of Minority Health:

- Monitors the programs in the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for their impact on improving health equity for African American, Hispanic American, Alaskan/Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander American populations.
- Advises the director of the Department of Health and Senior Services on all matters that affect health equity for all Minority populations.



The Office of Minority Health is responsible for:

- Participating in the health education, design and implementation of culturally sensitive and competent awareness programs that reduce the incidence of disease in Minority populations and increases the knowledge of available resources.
- Analyzing federal and state legislation for the impact on the health status of Minority populations.
- Developing programs that can attract other public and private funds.
- Assisting in the design of evidence-based programs and evaluations targeted specifically toward improving the health status and promoting health equity for all Minority populations.
- Providing necessary health information, data, and staff resources to the Missouri Minority Health Regional Alliances and minority communities.
- Collaboration with community and professional organizations, community health centers, universities and colleges, and federal, state and local public health agencies.




The Office of Minority Health supports:

- Six regional minority health alliances (Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, Eastern, and Central).
- Community-based organizations and activities.
- Senior services outreach.
- Educational and capacity building seminars and trainings.
- Faith-based communities and initiatives.
- Technical and advisory assistance related to minority health issues.



Office of Minority Health
P.O. Box 570
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