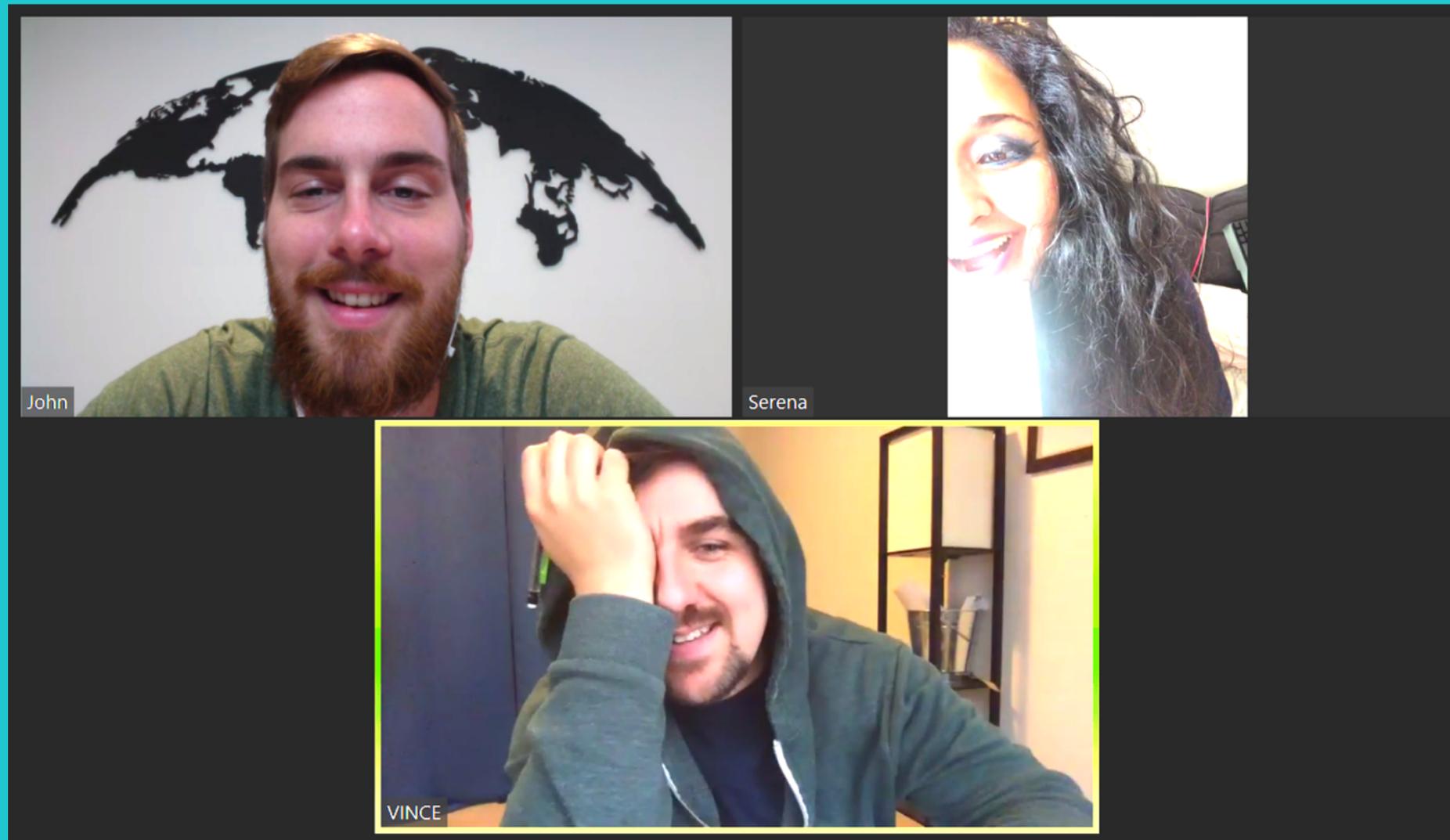


Forum for Schools 2020/21

Interactive, social justice-based theatre programming for students



The Forum Theatre Experience

As Toronto's foremost Forum Theatre company, Mixed Company Theatre has been inspiring students to create social change for over 20 years through **FORUM THEATRE**.

An UNESCO-recognized educational tool, Forum Theatre is a **participatory style of theatre** that is known for its effectiveness in helping students tackle issues that directly affect them by offering an opportunity for students to **"rehearse for reality" and try out their own solutions for positive change.**

This year we are offering two main types of programming:

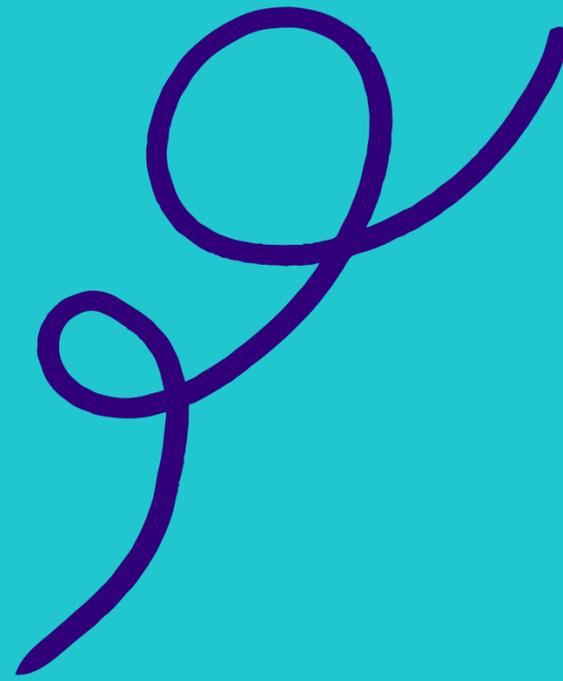
Virtual Lightning Forum Theatre Presentations (LFTs) - In these presentations, a story representing an issue is performed (the first act) over video conferencing software. Students are then invited onto the (virtual) stage by a trained facilitator to enact "an intervention" where they can either replace a character or suggest a change to the story for the better. A trained Forum Theatre facilitator (the Joker) prepares and encourages participants to replace the actors on the virtual stage (Zoom screen) and to change the story in a constructive way.

Forum Theatre Workshops (In person or Virtual) - A trained Forum Theatre facilitator leads students through theatre games and exercises designed to prompt them to examine the chosen topic(s) from multiple perspectives. Through open and supportive Forum Theatre facilitation, **students are able to share and explore strategies with one another in a safe artistic environment.**

Read on for more detailed descriptions of our programming!

DISCONNECTED

Available until June 2021



A virtual **Lightning Forum Theatre** presentation on **student mental health and wellbeing** during the pandemic.



DISCONNECTED - Synopsis

Quinn, Renee, and Tony are working together on a school project through Zoom. Quinn feels pressure from their group members to participate even though they are struggling with unreliable technology. Then, Quinn and Renee each arrive late to another friend, Jeff's, birthday party because of family issues and mental health challenges, which prompts Jeff to leave in frustration. Renee's attempts to get Quinn to realize the joy in life again and to just "figure out" their mental health challenges leaves Quinn feeling invalidated and the two friends in conflict.

These scenes prompt students and educators to consider questions like...

What are the **signs of poor or deteriorating mental wellbeing?**

How can we be **supportive mental health allies to one another during this time of social distancing?**

What can we do to **reduce stigma around mental wellness** in our school communities?

DURATION: 75-90 minutes

COST: \$850 + HST

MAX AUDIENCE: 350 - 400

DELIVERY: Virtual



Interested in presenting multiple shows or partnering up with another school?

Contact
communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com
for multiple performance discounts!

IT'S NOT OKAY

Available until June 2021



A virtual Lightning Forum
Theatre presentation exploring
challenges **BIPOC & LGBTQ2S+**
students experience at school.



IT'S NOT OKAY - Synopsis

In the first scene, Lane is offered an exciting opportunity to join student council by current members Noelle and Sona, but their reasons for doing so seem less about Lane's accomplishments and more about her race and sexual orientation. Then, Gabe tells their class over Zoom about their changed pronouns, which results in misgendering and uncomfortable attention from the teacher, as well as mocking from other students. In the final scene, debates about the student council's budget bring out anti-LGBTQ2S+ sentiment based on religious beliefs.

These scenes prompt students and educators to consider questions like...

How can we ensure **appropriate representation without turning it into 'tokenism'**?

What actions can you take as an ally to **create a supportive environment at school for LGBTQ2S+ students**?

How can we **foster inclusion, tolerance, and empathy in our school communities at large**?

DURATION: 75-90 minutes

COST: \$1100 + HST

MAX AUDIENCE: 350 - 400

DELIVERY: Virtual



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CUSTOMIZABLE LIGHTNING FORUM PRESENTATIONS



Virtual Forum
Theatre Presentations

Available until June 2021



Serena



Customizable Lightning Forum Presentations

This year our acclaimed **Lightning Forum Theatre presentations** will be presented **completely virtually**, addressing a variety of issues within **social justice, equity and mental health**. These topics will be tailored to reflect how students are experiencing them in the **context of the COVID-19 pandemic**.

The presentation format is the same as in *Disconnected* and *It's Not Okay*, but in this option you are given **greater flexibility** to choose the topics, themes, and sub-themes you would like addressed in the final presentation. These customized scenario-based presentations give you the opportunity to **choose from a range of issues** while maintaining the **engaging, participatory style** of a Forum Theatre show.

Topics we can explore include **gender based violence, bullying and cyber-bullying, LGBTQ2S+ discrimination, anti-racism, and many more!** Write to us and we can discuss how to tailor your presentation to the topics and scenarios you want addressed at your school.

DURATION: 75-90 minutes

COST: \$1200 + HST

MAX AUDIENCE: 350 - 400

DELIVERY: Virtual

Interested in presenting multiple shows or partnering up with another school?

Contact
communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com
for multiple performance discounts!



FORUM THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Available until June 2021



Forum Theatre Workshops

Our classroom workshops based in Forum Theatre methodology give students the opportunity to **explore complex social issues in a safe, facilitated environment**. Our workshops are customizable to the issues that are most relevant to your classroom and are **compatible with a wide variety of social justice, equity, civics, and arts-related curriculum content**. The content of presentations will be tailored to **reflect the context of the COVID-19 pandemic** and can be **facilitated in-person or virtually**.

Starting with **fun theatre games** designed to promote participation and improve communication skills, students will then work with our trained facilitator to **create image-based theatre scenes** that encourage them to **examine the workshop topic from multiple perspectives**. Each session will end with a discussion circle where students will reflect on their work and **leave inspired with positive, realistic strategies on the topic at hand**.

In the past we have explored topics such as **bullying, mental health, consent, homophobia and transphobia, sexual assault and harassment, substance misuse, inclusion and equity, peer pressure, and gang violence**.

DURATION: 60-75 minutes (1 class period; negotiable)

COST: \$250 + HST*

MAX AUDIENCE: 1 Class

DELIVERY: Virtual or In-Person

To book a workshop contact
communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com

*Travel costs may apply for in-person workshops



CURRICULUM LINKS

Mixed Company's Forum Theatre programming requires students to use their **Social-Emotional Learning Skills** and **Personal Awareness** to analyze, question, or empathize with the decisions made by the characters. They allow students to practice identifying **oral communication strategies**, exploring the **creation of art, and the promotion of equity and social justice**.

Our Arts programming closely follows curriculum expectations for English, Health and Physical Education, Drama, and Social Sciences.

Click on each of the headings below to learn how our programming connects to each subject's curriculum goals:

Health & Physical Education

(Gr. 6-12)

Social Sciences

(Gr. 9-12)

English

(Gr. 6-12)

Drama

(Gr. 6-12)



MIXED COMPANY THEATRE has been producing innovative, socially-relevant theatre as a tool for positive change since 1983. Today we are known for our commitment to inspiring communities and schools across Ontario to create social change through theatrical practice.

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