

Teen Ensemble

2023/24

Teen Ensemble News Letter

Fall 2023



Kick Off!



On September 9, we kicked off our Teen Ensemble year together with donuts, ensemble building, First Rehearsal Allyship with Maya Lawrence, a Laban Movement workshop with Katie Causey, and seeing *English*.

It was a full, joyful day for all 25 Teen Ensemble members to come together and meet for the first time.

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ENOUGH:

plays to end gun violence

ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence calls on teens to confront gun violence by creating new works of theatre that will spark critical conversations and meaningful action in communities across the country. This year the Alliance Theatre Teen Ensemble performed stage readings of a script comprised of six (6) new 10-minute plays by teen writers confronting gun violence as part of the ENOUGH! Nationwide Reading. Director Maya Lawrence led the teens through a beautiful, powerful evening of performance that allowed the audience to witness these pieces and reflect as a community.

CAST

Helena Skylark Denton

Tomi Fawehinmi

Simon Link

Kennedy O'Neil

Peter Pavlovsky

Julianna Grace Pillsbury

Anna Schwartz

Abigail May Watson

Caleb Vaughn

Director: Maya Lawrence

Assistant Director: Jayla Dyas

Movement Director: Asili Johnson

Stage Management: Shaelyn Mullins

Marketing Manager: Kerrington Griffin

Lighting/Sound Engineer: Lily Erera

ENOUGH!

PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Little Amal

Little Amal – whose name means 'hope' in Arabic – is a 12-foot puppet of a refugee Syrian child who has traveled to 13 countries. Fall of 2023, she traveled 6,000 miles from Boston to San Diego and visited 35 cities and towns in the United States.



In September and October 2023, the Teen Ensemble created, rehearsed, and performed with Little Amal alongside other youth performers including the High Museum's Teen Team, a choir from the Global Village Project, Alif Institute's Youth Drummers, the South Atlanta Sonic Boom Drumline, soloist Adrienne Ocfemia, and activist Yolanda Renee King.

The performance, AMAL WALKS ACROSS AMERICA: WE HAVE A DREAM, was attended by hundreds of patrons. The day was a celebration of young activists/artists and their place in the world and at the Woodruff Arts Center.

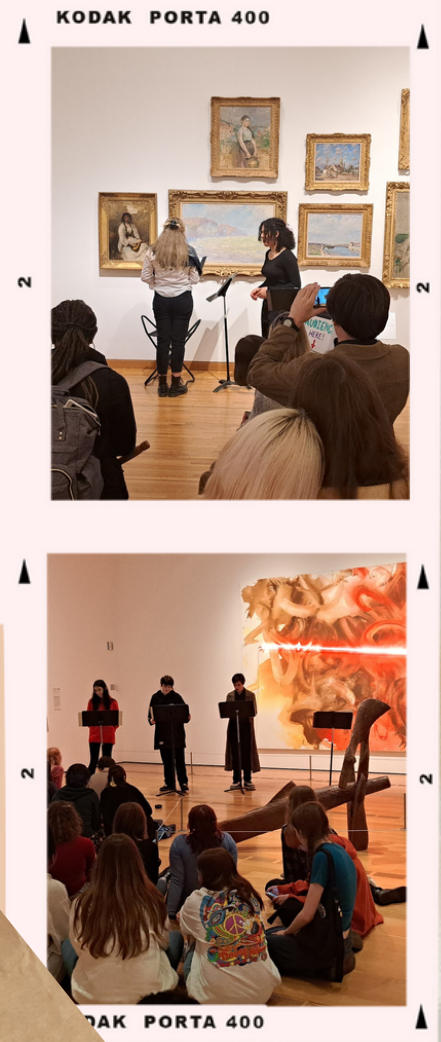


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10 Minute Play Project

Starting in November 2023, the Teen Ensemble met with playwright Megan Tabague for a playwriting workshop. From their 8 TE members stepped forward as playwrights for a 10 Minute Play Project. They spent the next month and a half writing and rewriting their pieces based on visual art pieces at the High Museum. Each playwright was paired with professional playwright mentors Dan Caffrey and Kira Rockwell in addition to Tabague.



TE members then self-selected as directors and actors for the final performances on January 27 in the High Museum galleries. The final performance was well attended by family, friends, and teens attending the Teen Night at the High Museum.



Scan the QR code for the playbill!

English

*Communication. Grief.
Privilege. Connections.
Opportunity.*

"Both Elham and Roya are still on my mind. Elham's line "can't they do us the courtesy of at least learning our names" and Roya's "our mother's get to name us, not foreigners" really resonated with me... I think it is sad when people have to change something about themselves as important as a name to fit in."

*Beautiful, Inspiring, Frustrating,
Powerful, Meticulous*

The Shining



Into The Borrow: A Peter Rabbit Tale

I absolutely loved it! The set was so immersive, and the characters were just so energetic that it really felt like I was in a rabbit burrow. And the songs were REALLY fun!

PLAYS WE'VE SEEN

And TE Member thoughts...

A Christmas Carol

"I really liked the lighting and fog and how the fireplace disappeared when the first ghost appeared. It really added to the fear and surprise. also ... the attention to little details..."

"The set design was amazing from the turntable changing locations and the houses coming in from left and right stage."



What's ahead?

Spring/Summer 2024

Productions Coming Up!

Furlough's Paradise

A Tale of Two Cities

Fat Ham

The Preacher's Wife



Workshop:

Stage Combat with Jake Guinn

Projects:

Milo Imagines the World

For their final project, the Teen Ensemble will spend two weeks creating a new play based on the book *Milo Imagines the World*. They will explore playwrighting, songwriting, and devising.

