

## ***The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui:*** **OnStage/OnLine RECAP**

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NEXT TUESDAY!!**

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with options: Unmute, Stop Video, Security, Participants (15), Polling, New Share, Pause Share, Annotate, Remote Control, and More. Below the toolbar, a green notification bar says "You are screen sharing" with a "Live" indicator and a "Stop Share" button. The main content area displays the text of the play's epilogue:

**Epilogue**

Therefore learn how to see and not to gape.  
To act instead of talking all day long.  
The world was almost won by such an ape!  
The nations put him where his kind belong.  
But don't rejoice too soon at your escape –  
The womb he crawled from still is going strong.

On the right side of the screen, there is a vertical stack of five video feeds for participants: Lucas Erickson (he/him/his), Patrick Bailey (he/his), Maria She/her, Pamela Mzezewa, and Ansa Akyea (He,Him,His).

Lucas Erickson (top right), Patrick Bailey, Maria Asp and Ansa Akyea facilitating an OnStage/OnLine discussion for an Augsburg University class about the play *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*.

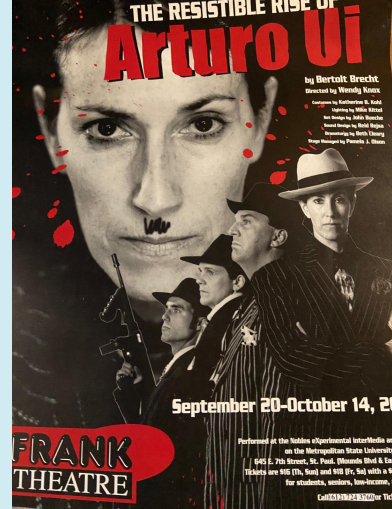
### **PROMOTING AND DISCUSSING THEATER IN COLLEGE CLASSROOMS - ONLINE!**

On Stage: Creating a Community Dialogue Around Live Theater is a theater outreach program fiscally

sponsored through Springboard for the Arts, with the goal of enhancing in-class learning, and building the next generation of theater audiences by making local theater relevant to current events, personal values and narratives.

Traveling to academic classes, On Stage has brought local actors to read scenes from plays in current local production to a variety of classes and disciplines. But since Covid-19 hit in March, we had to pivot and launch a new education experience for students. This new online program, OnStage/OnLine, is a series of discussions based on plays that are 'in the works' to be produced and performed in the Twin Cities in the future, designed to: stimulate an interest in live theater, examine the cultural context of a play, and, of course, to have fun! We offer students a discounted ticket voucher to see the play being discussed or a different play presented by the same theater at a later date.

These past two weeks, OnStage/OnLine led discussions with over 200 students in twelve college classrooms around the Twin Cities to discuss Bertolt Brecht's play, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. When an economic slump provides prime conditions for the rise of a small-time thug (strikingly similar to Al Capone) to take over the vegetable trade in 1930's Chicago, a parallel is set up for the story of another thug who is rising to power on the world stage in 1941, Adolf Hitler. The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui is a viciously funny "parable play," written but rarely performed in the United States. With the 2020 presidential election **ONE WEEK AWAY**, Ui shows a striking similarity to Trump's rise to power with his use of threats, blackmail, lack of empathy, and bribes of protection. Frank Theatre last produced the play in 2001. Local theater educators (Wendy Knox, Maria Asp, Ansa Akyea, Sun Mee Chomet and Patrick Bailey) facilitated the discussions. Below you can see the classes where discussions were held.





# DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

1. NORMANDEALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - COMM 1131: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION
2. UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS - ENGL 324: THE HEALING ART OF DRAMA
3. AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY - PSY 493: SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
4. UNIVERSITY OF ST THOMAS - FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE COURSE
5. AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY - POL 359: TOPICS: REVOLUTIONARY WRITINGS IN POLITICAL CONTEXT
6. AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY - ML 535: ORGANIZATION THEORY AND LEADERSHIP
7. AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY - COM 254: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
8. METRO STATE UNIVERSITY - WRIT 251: INTRO TO CREATIVE WRITING
9. EAST SIDE FREEDOM LIBRARY - COMMUNITY DISCUSSION
10. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - HIST 3020 - HANDS-ON HISTORY (CLASS #1)
11. METRO STATE UNIVERSITY - THEA 400: PLAYWRITING I
12. METRO STATE UNIVERSITY - SSCI 100: INTRO TO SOCIAL SCIENCE.
13. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - HIST 3020 - HANDS-ON HISTORY (CLASS #2)



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## SURVEY RESULTS

Of the students we visited, **87%** had seen a play before, but **no student** had ever seen a Frank Theatre play.

When asked "when would you feel comfortable going to see a play",  
**40%** answered "Not quite yet... but soon and when it feels safe"  
**27%** answered "Now... but if it was socially distant AND masks were required"  
**18%** answered "NOW"  
**14%** answered "Not until there is a vaccine"

**98%** of students said that the discussion added to their fuller understanding to what they have been discussing in class.

**96%** of students said that as a result of the discussion, they are more inclined to see this play when it is presented at a theater.

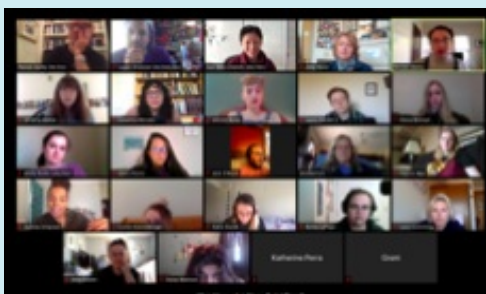
**98%** of students said that after participating in the discussion, they are more inclined to see **OTHER** live theater productions.

***"I think that one of the most important things is that the four of you had such good rapport with the students! I think it was very much worth it ... your program brings a perspective and experience to the students that many of them might not get otherwise."***

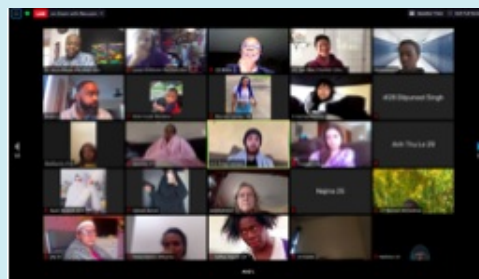
**Willie Johnson**  
Professor at Normandale Community College

***"I think we're making the best of challenging circumstances, especially when some students have their cameras off ... thanks for the opportunity to figure out a way to keep this program going during this beyond-challenging time."***

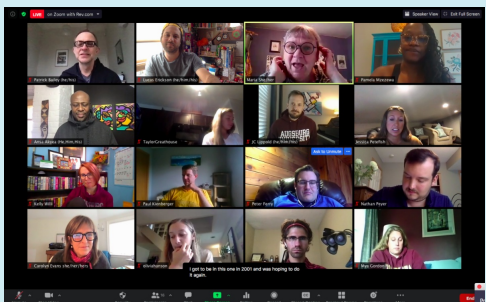
**Sun Mee Chomet**  
Actress and On Stage Educator



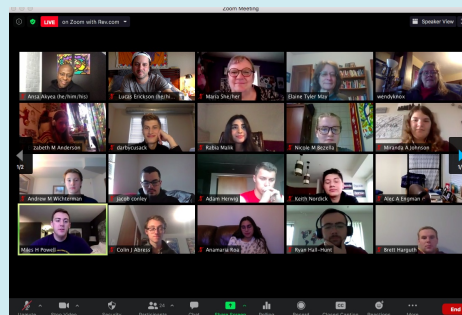
An OnStage/OnLine discussion with students at the University of St. Thomas.



An OnStage/OnLine discussion with students at Normandale Community College.



An OnStage/OnLine discussion with students at Augsburg University.



An OnStage/OnLine discussion with students at the University of Minnesota.

***"I have been on a lot of Zoom sessions these last several months, and this went VERY well ... You, Maria, Ansa, and Patrick created a very relaxed, inviting space - warming up with light work... moving to riskier (for the students taking on roles)... each of you thoughtfully engaged with the students ... SO amazing!"***

**Carolyn Evans**  
Professor at Augsburg University

***"We are all starved for the arts and for community connections. We had prepared with a discussion on the potential for the arts to be a site of activism and we also discussed the role of humor in unmasking power and authority. [This play] challenged me to introduce activism and political engagement into this segment of the course. Given the upcoming election, it felt timely and necessary. I loved that the students read from the script and that you***

*prompted them to tease out Ui's efforts to manipulate and to take power."*

**Diana Dean**  
Professor at Metro State University

**CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW to watch Wendy Knox and Maria Asp lead a discussion about *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* with friends of the East Side Freedom Library:**



YOUTUBE.COM

**The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (Presentation and Discussion)**

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NEXT TUESDAY!!**

“ A WORKER IS SOMEBODY WHO WORKS. BUT WHEN YOU STRIKE, WHEN YOU STOP WORKING, THEN YOU’RE NOT A WORKER ANYMORE. THEN YOU’RE A MENACE TO SOCIETY. AND THAT’S WHERE I STEP IN. ”

Arturo Ui



“ WHO IS FOR ME? AND JUST IN PASSING LET ME ADD: IF ANYONE’S NOT FOR ME HE’S AGAINST ME AND HAS ONLY HIMSELF TO BLAME FOR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS. NOW YOU MAY VOTE. ”

Arturo Ui

“ I WON’T BE THREATENED. EITHER TRUST ME BLINDLY OR GO YOUR WAY. I OWE YOU NO ACCOUNTING ”

Arturo Ui

THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI - EPILOGUE

“BUT DON’T REJOICE TOO SOON AT YOUR ESCAPE – THE WOMB HE CRAWLED FROM STILL IS GOING STRONG”

Arturo Ui

“ Things in this town are looking very sick! First murder and now arson! This should show you men that no one’s safe from the next blow!... Now you stand defenseless in a cold world where, sad to say, the weak are always trampled. You’ve got only one protector left. That’s me, Arturo Ui. ”

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

**VOTE**

**THE RESISTIBLE Arturo**

**VOTE**

**VOTE NEXT WEEK!**

“Learn how to see and not to gape. To act instead of talking all day long. The world was almost won by such an ape! The nations put him where his kind belong.”

*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui - EPILOGUE*

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get out the  
**vote**  
2020

**DONATE TO ON STAGE**

Your support is greatly appreciated during this time as On Stage continues to schedule as many engaging inline discussion with Twin Cites classes as possible.

Thank you!

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**WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE PLAYS FOR THE  
SPRING SEMESTER NEXT MONTH!**

For questions about upcoming On Stage discussions, and to schedule an in-class online discussion, please visit:

**[onstagemn.org](http://onstagemn.org)**

**EMAIL ON STAGE**

