

Forums 2017-2018

Clybourne Park

The Ups and Downs of the Development Vision of Greenville through the Years

Wednesday, September 20, 6:30 PM

Bruce Norris' Pulitzer Prize winning play *Clybourne Park* looks at the changing dynamics of a fictional neighborhood in Chicago's southside through the lens of one house. By placing the turmoil incited by White owners selling the house to a Black family in 1959 alongside the conflict created by a White family purchasing it in 2009, the play poses challenging questions about what constitutes progress in changing communities. Does the transformation of Greenville over the past 30 years offer any way forward to cities across the country faced with similar questions? Join us for conversation with Merle Code, an essential member of Greenville's development vision braintrust, as we look back at how far Greenville has come and the road that brought us here.

The Effects of Gentrification on the Community of Greenville

Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 PM

In the spirit of *Clybourne Park's* then and now structure, our second forum of the season will complement our earlier forum on Greenville's development vision with a conversation on the intentional and unintentional impacts of its transformation. Has the revitalization of downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods created a rising tide lifting all boats or are some being left behind? While the benefits may seem obvious to many, what are the costs of the influx of capital and rapid development? Join us as we discuss the state of Greenville now and look toward the next phase of our life as a community.

The Cake

How Does Faith Shape Your Gender Role and Identity? The Woman's Perspective.

Wednesday, November 29, 6:30 PM

Though not strictly autobiographical, there are aspects of Becca Brunstetter's play *The Cake* that resonate as deeply personal. Brunstetter who is a native North Carolinian and the daughter of devout Southern Baptists, charts with pathos and generosity her character Jenn's journey to reconcile her identity with the faith and community of her upbringing. It's a burden disproportionately placed upon women LGBTQ individuals in our culture as they attempt to integrate their whole selves into faith traditions that have too often viewed them as second-class citizens. Join us for a conversation with women of various faiths about the complexities of gender, identity, and theology, both old and new.

Moon for the Misbegotten

Hidden Struggles: Public Persona vs. Private Reality

Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 PM

"We can kid the world, but we can't fool ourselves, like most people, no matter what we do -- nor escape ourselves, no matter where we run away." - Tyrone

What are the masks we wear to hide our deeper struggles? And to what lengths will we go to keep our demons concealed from those around us? These are the questions posed by Eugene O'Neill's classic and achingly personal text, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*. Set in 1923, an era when the working class felt the economic tide turning against them, the cultural realities that amplify the personal trials faced by the play's central characters feel all too familiar. Join us for a discussion of the ways avoidance, addiction, and facade contribute to a constellation of concealment with tragic consequences.

The Flick

Technology, Culture, and the Price of Progress

Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 PM

In Annie Baker's 2013 Pulitzer Prize winning play, *The Flick*, one of the last remaining 35MM film projectors in the state of Massachusetts is threatened to be replaced by its digital counterpart. The shift might seem insignificant, but for the employees caught in middle of the "upgrade" it's just another way the world is catapulting forward with no regard for the human cost. Digital recording, music streaming, and instant video download are all innovations that have made entertainment cheaper, more accessible, and more ubiquitous than ever. But has the progress come at a cost? Join us as we discuss the broad impacts of our insatiable hunger for entertainment, and the ways that cultural progress has impacted our community.

Much Ado About Nothing

The Loss of Integrity in Our Political Discourse

Wednesday, April 18, 6:30 PM

Act IV of Shakespeare's comic portrayal of sparring, sharp-tongued lovers provides an almost tragic twist. The love between two couples is nearly torn apart when political ambitions drive Don John to falsely accuse a young lover of unfaithfulness. The cascading impacts of this character attack bring to light the weight of integrity in their world -- and by comparison, our own. In an age where political and social discourse is often degraded by *ad hominem* arguments, and a level of slander is legitimized as a political tool, how can we elevate our conversations to regain a sense of honor in the political arena?

Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson

Populism, Yea! - Now More than Ever

Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 PM

Andrew Jackson ascended to the nation's highest office on a populist wave against the establishment elite. His rise to power and successful expansion of national territory serve as mythic ideals of the American dream for the disillusioned across generations. In 2006 when the creative team behind *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson* set out to write a comic, rock musical about our nation's 7th president, they were responding to a growing populist movement just beginning to foment in the country. They probably never dreamed that ten years later the sitting president would hang Jackson's portrait in the Oval Office. Join members of the original Broadway creative team, including our own Producing Artistic Director Mike Sablone and Director Andrew Scoville, for a conversation about the history of the show and it's continued relevance.