

Department of Theatre Arts

Diversity Tactics, 2017-18

1. Committee Work

In September 2017, the Department of Theatre Arts voted to form a committee of the whole in order to pursue ongoing efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion at the department level and in the University Theatre. The Department is committed to giving regular and sustained attention to all issues related to diversity and inclusion.

The makeup of the committee is:

Henry Wonham, Professor and Dept. Head
John Schmor, Associate Professor
Theresa May, Associate Professor
Michael Najjar, Associate Professor
Jerry Hooker, Associate Professor
Jeanette deJong, Assistant Professor
Bradley Branam, Assistant Professor
Nelson Barre, Visiting Assistant Professor
Janet Rose, Senior Career Instructor
Tricia Rodley, Career Instructor
Vicki Vanecek-Young, Career Instructor and Costume Shop Supervisor
Olga Sanchez-Saltveit, Graduate Representative
Angela Hahn, Undergraduate Representative
Marie Greig, Business Manager

The Committee's Charge: Work toward the University of Oregon's commitment to make diversity a matter of institutional priority and an integral component of academic success. We understand the concept of diversity in the broadest terms, including, but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, class, and other areas of social equality. The committee will work toward fulfilling the following university goals:

GOAL #1 (I: Inclusion): Create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

GOAL #2 (D: Diversity): Increase the representation of diverse students, faculty, staff, and community partners at all levels of the university.

GOAL #3 (A: Achievement): Facilitate access to achievement, success, and recognition for underrepresented students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

GOAL #4 (L: Leadership): Leadership will prioritize and incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in plans and actions.

2. University Theatre

Issues of diversity play a crucial role at every level in University Theatre productions. Decisions about play selection, casting, costuming and set design all involve careful

consideration of the way cultures and identities are represented on stage. During the 2017-18 season, plays of particular relevance to issues of racial, cultural, and gender diversity include:

Left Hand of Darkness (Nov 3-18, 2017)

On the frozen planet of Gethen there are not two sexes. Gethenian people share a unique biology that makes each individual potentially capable of bearing a child. Without sexual categories there is no history of normalizing “gender,” and interstellar observers suspect the lack of gender constructions on Gethen is one factor in why its populations have never experienced war. An envoy from a consortium of planets who coordinate for mutual benefit, seeking to extend and exchange knowledge, has come alone to Gethen to invite its people to join. The envoy’s arrival is fraught with peril after the shock for Gethenians that there are other worlds, with technologies and understanding more advanced than their own. Powerful people of Gethen’s two great nations are suspicious, fearful of this strange visitor and his invitation – arriving at a moment when there are new tensions along their borders and dangerous differences in state power and control. Unaware, they are at the brink of inventing war. One gendered person and one un-gendered person, across a great glacier, must fight to stop war and open a world’s future, together. Award-winning Oregon author Ursula K. Le Guin’s groundbreaking novel, **The Left Hand of Darkness**, is adapted for the Robinson stage by John Schmor, in cooperation with the author.

Adapted and directed by John Schmor

<https://around.uoregon.edu/ursula-le-guin>

Tricks to Inherit (May 25 – June 9, 2018)

Tricks to Inherit is the first translation of Reygadas’ *Astucias por heredar un sobrino a un tío*, cited as the “first drama staged in California” by Hispanic theatre historian Nicolás Kanellos. Written in Mexico City, *Tricks to Inherit* is a satirical comedy about a miserly uncle, his love-struck nephew, and their wily servants.

Written by Fermín de Reygadas

Translated and Directed by Olga Sanchez Saltveit

3. Faculty Hiring

The Department is planning to submit a proposal in January, 2018, for a new tenure-line position in Theatre Arts. The loss two years ago of a specialist in African American theatre indicates a strong possibility that the Department will request to search in this or a related field.