



SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION THROUGH THEATRE

in Universities & Colleges
2020-2021

We use theatre to create safer + healthier post-secondary communities.

FORUM THEATRE is a UNESCO-recognized education tool where students **step onto the stage** to enact real-time strategies for addressing social issues, and creating positive, lasting change.



FORUM THEATRE ON CAMPUS

Mixed Company's **Lightning Forum Presentations** are available year round.

These presentations, now available **completely virtually**, give your post-secondary community the opportunity to identify, interact with, and take positive action against **one of two urgent social issues** faced by students.



> PRESENTATION A: SEXUAL VIOLENCE + CONSENT

75 mins | 350-400 students | \$1650+HST

Themes include: substance use • victim-blaming • gender discrimination • harassment based on race and sexuality • emotional manipulation • allyship • rape culture • the importance of **ongoing & enthusiastic consent**

This presentation will address these key themes in the **context of the COVID-19 pandemic**. It will highlight how issues of sexual violence and consent can manifest during this time of physical distancing.

KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED

What does ongoing, enthusiastic consent look, feel, and sound like?
When can a person give consent, and when can they not?
How can we identify and intervene in non-consensual situations?
How can you support a peer who has experienced sexual violence?
How does sexual violence intersect with gender, race, and sexuality?
What can we do to mitigate rape culture and victim-blaming in post-secondary communities?



> PRESENTATION B: STUDENT MENTAL WELLBEING

75 mins | 350-400 students | \$1650+HST

Themes include: mental health stigma • burn-out • normalization of poor mental health • anxiety • depression • isolation • loneliness • FOMO • mental health allyship

This presentation will address these key themes in the **context of the COVID-19 pandemic**. It will highlight how mental health can be affected by developments in the crisis - physical distancing measures, health concerns, and more.

KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED

How can you prevent burnout and fatigue during this time of increased stress and virtual interactions?

What are the signs of poor or deteriorating mental wellbeing?

How can you be an ally to peers who seem to be struggling with mental health during this difficult time?

What can we do to reduce stigma around mental wellness in our post-secondary communities?

Where can we go to seek and receive support from our University/College?



REHEARSING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Forum Theatre is an interactive approach rooted in Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy and Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed methodology. It **actively involves students** in developing real-time strategies for dealing with social and personal issues. Forum Theatre **creates a safe space for students** to experiment, ask questions, take risks, and imagine creative solutions to challenging situations they recognize from their lives.

In a Mixed Company production, a story representing an urgent social issue is created, rehearsed and performed by professional actors. The story is then presented again—only this second time, students can intervene in the story, as “spect-actors,” to create a positive alternative ending. A **trained Forum Theatre facilitator** prepares and encourages students to replace the actors in the scene and to **change the story in a constructive way**.

PRESENTATION ITINERARY

- 1.** We **introduce ourselves** as Mixed Company Theatre and explain our Forum Theatre methodology to the audience along with our virtual protocols
- 2.** We **perform the scenes** which engage with the chosen social issue
- 3.** We **prepare students** for "interventions" using vocal and physical exercises
- 4.** We invite students to **take the virtual stage**, replace an actor in a role of their choice, and attempt to "intervene" or positively change the scene's outcome
- 5.** In dialogue with students, we **unpack and discuss** the intentions behind, outcomes of, and challenges evident in each student's intervention
- 6.** At the end of the presentation, we **reiterate the learning moments** arising from the session and, critically, ensure key resources and **avenues for support** within the post-secondary community are identified.

WE TOUR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS YEAR-ROUND.

Mixed Company will bring our interactive and educational Lightning Forum Presentations to **your campus virtually**.

With questions or to book, write to:
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educate • engage • empower