

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS

ILLUMINATION PROJECT

INTERACTIVE THEATER ADDRESSING
THE ISSUES OF RACISM



WINTER
PROGRAM
2024

About the Illumination Project

The Illumination Project (IP) is Portland Community College's innovative, nationally lauded student leadership and social justice theater program. The IP is designed to address issues of equity and inclusion and to foster a climate of belonging, compassion, and respect for all people in the PCC community.

Each year the Student Educators write, promote, and perform plays addressing issues such as racism, immigration, ableism, classism, gender-based violence, and heterosexism, all drawn from situations the students have experienced themselves.

The Illumination Project has a dual purpose. First, the project provides participating students an opportunity to learn about social justice issues and interactive theater as they develop skills as educators, actors, activists, and leaders. These students then educate audiences of other students, staff, and faculty to confront stereotypes, teach conflict negotiation, and promote racial, gender, and economic equity.

2023-2024 STAFF

Project Coordinator:
Jeannie LaFrance

Program Specialist:
Loulou Fernandez

Project Assistant
Coordinators:
Lyle Funk
Sean Fields
Sparrow Lattanzi

Education Booklet



For more
information,
scan the QR
code or go to
pcc.edu/illumination



Theater of the Oppressed and Forum Theater

Augusto Boal, *The Rainbow of Desire*, 1995:

“When the spectator herself comes on stage and carries out the action she had in mind, she does it in a manner which is personal, unique, and non-transferable, as she alone can do it, and as no artist can do it in her place.... This is how Forum Theatre was born.”

Forum theater is interactive, with audience engagement acting as a key component. You are not invited to only observe these performances, but to take the place of someone on stage to see how your actions could change the outcome of our protagonists' fates.

Get Involved!

The actors will perform the show once without interruption. After that, an audience member can call “Stop!” when they notice a problem and take the place of the protagonist or other character. Two rules: No one may replace the antagonist, and the character you replace must share a common identity with you. There is no right or wrong way to go in these situations. Our goal is to improvise a new outcome with each new volunteer, illuminating the multitudes of biases and identities we all hold.



IP Student Educators



Katarina Carrico | him/her/they

"I'm aiming for a career in social work, and this class has helped to better my understanding of the ongoing issues within our culture. I enjoy reading and writing short stories, and I'd describe myself as the perfect horror movie date-- my morbid curiosity pulls me in, but I'm too scared to watch, so I hide behind the person I'm with."



Nancy Huynh | she/they

"I am a strong advocate for social justice and reform, and I joined the IP because I love to be a part of an atmosphere that nourishes and cultivates that outlook in others. I am a Korean/Vietnamese-American woman, born to immigrants, and married to a Black/Korean man. I have personally experienced the ongoing racism and micro-aggressions towards AAPI. There are many nuances to how these cultures interact in our daily lives in conjunction with White America."



Foxy Epperson | they/them

"When I signed up for IP, I was going through a long-term phase of existential dread, and not too sure about what to do with my life. Yet, I instinctively knew this was what I needed the day I opened the email. The IP has answered the questions I couldn't find answers to, taught me social skills I was missing, and gave me a reason to smile. Wherever I go from here, I'll take these skills and memories with me."



Natalia Kasperovich | she/her

"I am a chemical engineer, former Oregon Gerontological Association board member, and community volunteer, as well as a passionate advocate for continuous, self-motivated learning. My ongoing pursuit of knowledge led me to PCC's Gerontology Program, where I earned my professional certificates in 2023 and am presently working on Associates Degree."



Ally Kineman | they/them

"As a drama teacher, I am always looking for opportunities to further my education in order to provide my students with a safe and accessible place to grow as young artists. I will use what I learn in IP in my work as an improviser, artist and performer. The work doesn't stop when the class ends."



Francia Lockerby | she/her

"I am actively involved in self-improving that leads me to help make the world a better place. I joined the Illumination Project to learn how to approach sensitive topics without offending those whose actions I disagree with; people I can still treat with dignity and respect. Everything I do is in the hopes of changing who I am for the better."



Lizz Louni | she/her

"I joined the IP after listening to my friend's experience of it. It was a good occasion to learn more about the different kinds of discrimination in our society, since this topic isn't really covered in my home country. I also needed to get my sociology credits and the reduced cost has been helpful!"



Winter Term 2024

Not pictured: Lizz Louni & Elizabeth Mortell

Elizabeth Mortell | she/her

"I'm a student in the Illumination Project. I grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. I have gone to art school, and my current major is Criminal Justice. I used to read tarot cards professionally, but now my main goal is to become a civil rights attorney."



Isaac Macedo | he/him

"I am a student leader in the IP, where I'm getting experience for my acting career and film and TV shows. I am Latino and my family is from El Salvador. I also have Autism Spectrum Disorder, which means sometimes it takes me a little longer to learn things and to connect with people."



Elliot Rivera | they/he

"I am a third generation Puerto Rican and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I am pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts, and it's been wonderful to have the opportunity to playwright about my experiences as a Latine, mixed race person, as well as to honor and share the stories of others in our program."



Dakotah Ross | he/him

"I am super outgoing and love to talk to anyone about anything! I getting to know people and love learning new things. I am also a father, and my children mean the world to me."



John "Lyle" Funk | he/him

"I am a former Yes to College student and a part of the Future Connect program. I hope to transfer to Lewis and Clark to continue my studies into the field of Psychology. I am planning to be in Winter-Spring 2024 Men of Color Leadership cohort. I look to be a role model and pave the way for my aspirations so others may follow."



Sean Fields | he/him

"This is my second year with the Illumination Project, joining as an Asst. Coordinator after working as a student educator. I am studying to get a degree in Economics. Outside of this program, I am the vice president of PCC's Improv Club."



Sparrow Lattanzi | they/them

"Hi! I'm Sparrow! I am a gender fluid student who is on my way to gaining my masters in art therapy! This is my second year with IP."



Performance Schedule

DATE AND TIME	LOCATION
02/08 at 11:00am	Sylvania PAC Lobby "Quiet Down"
02/12 at 01:00pm	Sylvania PAC Lobby "One Up"
02/13 at 01:00pm	Sylvania PAC Lobby "Quiet Down"
02/14 at 11:00am	Sylvania PAC Lobby "One Up"
02/15 at 09:00am	Sylvania PAC Lobby "One Up"
02/19 at 12:00pm	Livestream Performance "Quiet Down"
02/20 at 11:00am	Livestream Performance "One Up"
02/21 at 09:00am	Livestream Performance "Quiet Down"
02/22 at 09:00am	Livestream Performance "Quiet Down"
02/26 at 11:30am	Southeast Tabor 145 "One Up"
02/27 at 12:00pm	Southeast Tabor 145 "Quiet Down"
02/29 at 02:00pm	Rock Creek Event Cntr "Quiet Down"
03/05 at 09:00am	Cascade TH 112 "One Up"

Accessibility arrangements:
aedr@pcc.edu or cap@pcc.edu

All performances are wheelchair accessible

To sign up for
performances please
scan the QR code



Sylvania - 12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland, OR 97219

Southeast - 2305 SE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97216

Rock Creek - 17705 NW Springville Rd, Portland, OR 97229

Cascade - 705 N Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97217

Synopsis of Plays

“One Up”

Written by Francia and Dakotah

One Up follows a group of friends as they navigate experiences in their PCC undergraduate program as they prepare to apply for nursing school. Some encounter barriers rooted in Anti-Asian racism and xenophobia, while others benefit from white privilege, all of which envelope and ultimately shape their paths.

“Quiet Down”

Written by Elliot and Foxy

Lex, Chris, and Adrian, three college students and roommates, navigate moments of racism, xenophobia, and European beauty standards, while also dealing with workplace and housing discrimination in Portland, Oregon.



Scan the QR code to fill out an online evaluation after the performance.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?



IP Cohort 2023-2024

→ 8 tuition-free sociology credits ←

→ Gain experience in live theater,
and social justice activism ←

→ Two-term commitment
(Winter 2025-Spring 2025) ←

Contact us at 971.722.8149
or jlfranc@pcc.edu



The Illumination Project is a program of the Sylvania Women's Resource Center & is co-sponsored by the Sylvania Multicultural & Queer Resource Centers, Sociology and Theatre departments.

APPLY HERE
pcc.edu/illumination