

The Illumination Project

Portland Community College

Spring 2026



Interactive Theater Addressing
Racism & Xenophobia



The Illumination Project

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.

For more info, scan the QR code or visit:
pcc.edu/illumination



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.

Project Coordinator:

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THEATER OF THE OPPRESSED AND FORUM THEATER

Theater of the Oppressed/Forum Theater was developed by Brazilian theater activist Augusto Boal. Forum theater is interactive, with audience engagement acting as a key component. You are invited not only to observe these performances, but also 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 characters. 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 variety of ways we can work as a community toward a more inclusive world.

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."

- STUDENT BIOS -

AK, She/They/Any - Seeing the conversations happening in the IP, they decided to join to strengthen their connection to the community. A few things that they enjoy are road trips with their pup and reading in nature.

Aston, He/They - Aston is an amazing STEM student, excelling in math and Korean karaoke! He aspires to become a neurosurgeon.



Blanca, She/Her - Born in lower Arizona, she moved to Portland for better opportunities. Wanting to help the community and those oppressed by the system, she chose to study sociology.

Charmy, She/Her - Decided to join the Illumination Project to learn more about social justice. She is aspiring to create an interactive book.

Citlali, She/Her - Citlali is proudly Mexican-American and is driven by social justice. She is multilingual in Spanish, ASL, and Nahuatl, and is committed to advocating for minorities in her future career in law and politics!

Estrella, She/They - Growing up in a large, loving family, she became the first in her family to attend college. They decided to join the IP to educate themselves on social justice, practice acting, and support their love of voice acting.



Isabella, She/Her - She joined IP to learn from others and build an inclusive community! Working on a BS in nursing, she's gaining skills in healthcare.

Kalza, He/Him - Originally a theater artist, he found the IP to continue his theater practice and learn about social justice along the way. He plans to study theater after finishing his ESOL.

Kira, She/They - Joined the IP for the theatrical aspect and the usefulness it could bring to daily life. She enjoys writing poetry to express her emotions and thoughts.

Luke, He/Him - He loves writing and storytelling. He decided to join the IP because of his love of both theater and sociology.

Mariana, She/Her - Joined the IP to learn about social justice and theater. She loves lending an ear to others and wishes to open her own consulting business.

Marisa, She/Her - Marisa is one of the assistant coordinators this year, joining IP for their love of social justice. They are pursuing an MFA in creative writing.

Mika, Any/All - Fighting to change society, she joined the IP to learn more. He loves playing guitar, listening to music, and attending the theater.



Morgen, She/They - Morgen was inspired to join the work happening in IP last spring. They wish to take their learnings into teaching psychology at the college level!

Naomi, She/Her - "You heard about Pluto? That's messed up, right?"

Pō, Any/All - Interrupting oppression effectively while keeping their nervous system as calm as possible. Their interests include writing poetry, farming, and surfing.

Sally, She/Her - Known for her quick wit, Sally brings high energy and a collaborative spirit to every project she's part of. She spends her time dancing, swimming, and exploring new sounds through music.



REMOTE PERFORMANCES

Monday, May 11th 11:00 am - 12:50 pm

Tuesday, May 12th 11:00 am - 12:50 pm

Wednesday, May 13th 5:00 - 6:20 pm

SYLVANIA

Monday, May 4th - 11:00 am - 12:50 pm PAC Lobby

Thursday, May 7th - 1:00 - 2:50 pm PAC Lobby

Monday, May 11th - 3:00 - 4:50 pm PAC Lobby

Wednesday, May 13th - 9:00 - 10:50 am PAC Lobby

Thursday, May 14th - 10:00 - 11:50 am PAC Lobby

CASCADE

Monday, May 18th - 12:00 - 1:50 pm MAHB Aud

Wed, May 27th - 11:00 am-12:50 pm MAHB Aud

Wed, May 27th - 2:00 - 3:50 pm MAHB Aud

SOUTHEAST

Friday, May 8th 1:30 - 2:45 pm Community Hall

Thursday, May 28th 12:00 - 1:50 pm Tabor 143

ROCK CREEK

Thurs, May 21st 12:00 - 1:50 pm

Bldg 5, Rm 122

PSU

Thurs, May 20th 11:00 - 12:50 pm

LH 301



Sign up here for performances!

Andie, They/Them - Andie is a current IP Assistant Coordinator. They have a background in theater performance and stage management and are working towards running social justice theater workshops for BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ youth.

Diana, She/They - Diana is one of the Assistant Coordinators this year. She is passionate about theatre and social justice, which drew her to IP.

Sparky, She/Her - Sparky is an Assistant Coordinator this year. She has goals to complete her Doctorate in Education after receiving her MBA in Mongolia! She joins IP to gain knowledge on social concepts and social justice.

Play Descriptions

Guilty of Being



WRITTEN BY
SALLY, PRESTON & ANDIE

“Guilty of Being” explores the emotional toll of xenophobia through the daily lives of Amira, Ash, and Tracy. They’re roommates and begin their day with shared laughter and plans for a celebratory dinner, unaware of the hostility awaiting them in public. Throughout the day, Traci experiences stereotypes based on perceived immigration status, Ash faces verbal abuse from entitled bus passengers, while Amira is targeted because of her hijab by a bystander who weaponizes her prayer into a false threat of terrorism. These traumatic encounters, fueled by racism and xenophobia, shatter the morning’s peace and leave the trio feeling vulnerable and exhausted. The play ends on a somber note as the friends retreat from the world, highlighting how systemic prejudice forces marginalized people to shrink themselves to survive.

Los Valientes Contra el Mundo



WRITTEN BY
CITLALI & PŌ

Set against a backdrop of a cultural celebration, “Los Valientes Contra El Mundo” examines various impacts of historical and present-day white supremacy in the US, focusing specifically on anti-Latino racism, immigrants, and ICE, with underlying themes of colonization and the fetishization of people of color. Following a group of PCC students over the course of a day, some students face challenges due to anti-Latino racism, whereas other students experience the advantages of white privilege. All of these factors intertwine to significantly affect their friendships, sense of selves, and familial financial security.

Con el telón de fondo de una celebración cultural, “Los Valientes Contra El Mundo” examina los varios impactos que la supremacía blanca, tanto histórica como actual, en los Estados Unidos, centrándose específicamente en el racismo anti-Latino, de inmigrantes y ICE, con temas subyacentes de colonización y la fetichización de las personas de color. Esta obra de teatro es de alumnos de Portland Community College donde dentro de un día demuestran cómo algunos estudiantes enfrentan desafíos debido al racismo anti-Latino, mientras otros experimentan las ventajas del privilegio blanco. Todos estos factores se entrelazan de una manera que afecta gravemente sus amistades, sentido de uno mismo y la seguridad económica de sus familias.

JOIN THE ILLUMINATION PROJECT!

8 TUITION-FREE SOCIOLOGY CREDITS!



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



- Two term commitment [Winter 2027- Spring 2027]
- Gain experience in live theater, and social justice activism



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