

Weaving Our Sisters' Voices

4/17/2015

Why this production is valuable to student learning:

- This is a true ensemble show in which every performer is telling the story. There are no leads and secondary characters. This builds a powerful learning experience and sense of unity in the cast that translates directly to the audience experience.
- The social justice issues are paramount in this work. It is in no way a historical recreation but rather a conduit to see the parallels of the struggles of women's lives in the past and how many of the same struggles are ones that are dealt with still, today.
- These are the lesser told stories of women's struggles and triumphs from scripture, "giving voice" to those stories less heard. Who are the voices of today that are not heard? How can we listen more carefully to the stories of the disenfranchised, domestic abuse survivors, and homeless?
- This has a special place in the hearts of many of this community because it is mission centered and truly a Gonzaga Show created by professors from three departments, Theatre/Dance, Music and Religious studies.
- As you can see from the script it is poetry. This creates a rich but blank canvas for the telling of these stories. The blocking, the dance, the enactments are not defined so that every performance creatively collaborated by designers, director, performers is new.
- Having direct access to the playwright (Dr. Linda Schearing, Religious Studies) to learn from, in person, is a powerful educational opportunity.
- Having direct access to the composer (Dr. Robert Spittal, Music) to learn from, in person, is a powerful educational opportunity. And Professor Spittal is currently working with the Director to add a number of songs and rework others.
- Working with live student musicians and composers to literally create the dramatic transitions and tensions within the story is a unique opportunity.
- The playwright's intention that this work result in action is very important. Connections to community organizations and performances for specific populations brought in from the community are in the planning stages.
- Because we have the originators of the script, because the show is only about an hour long, talk back sessions after the performances are rich.
- The Director/Choreographer is VERY excited about the opportunity to dive into this incredible experience. Interested, engaged, enthusiastic participants impact learning.