



BOOKING CONTACT

KIMM BEAVERS
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A three-phase interactive diversity event

The Play, The Deliberation, The Discussion.

THE DEFAMATION EXPERIENCE is a unique interactive diversity program comprised of three components; the play which explores the highly charged issues of race, class, religion, gender, and the law with a twist: the audience is the jury. Through deliberations and post show discussions, audiences engage in civil discourse that challenges preconceived notions.

"Whether we like it or not, we still have major divides in this country. Most of us still go to bed at night in cities, communities and neighborhoods that are segregated by race, religion, ethnicity and/or class. I wanted to write a play that encourages open, honest conversation that leads to greater understanding and empathy to combat today's prevailing trends."

-Todd Logan, Playwright

The Play

DEFAMATION is an old-fashioned courtroom drama. The premise is a civil suit: Ms. Wade, an African-American business owner, is suing Mr. Golden, a Jewish real estate developer, for defamation. What follows is a 75-minute riveting trial that "holds out prejudices and assumptions under a powerful lens, and does not let go except by way of an unsettling self-examination."

The Deliberation After the most dramatic testimony, the judge tells the audience they are going to be the jury. A first poll is taken. The choices are for the plaintiff, the defendant, or undecided. The tally is announced. Then for 15 minutes, the judge leads the deliberation. Jurors stand to explain and advocate their reasons for their vote. When a consensus of views have been heard, the judge polls the audience again with only the option to vote for either the plaintiff or the defendant, and this final vote decides the outcome of the trial.

The Post Show Discussion

Immediately following the trial, a seasoned facilitator steps forward and invites the audience to stay for a post-show discussion. The purpose is not to re-litigate the case; the post-show is an opportunity for safe, open, honest and meaningful conversations about race, class, religion, gender, and the law.

"Students and community members were compelled to grapple with both emotional and rational responses – learning about self and

others in the dialogue. The conversation continued in the classroom and on social media. We return to the themes of the play as they ripple through our thoughts and our lives.”

-Claudia Guzman and Warren Scherer, Inclusive Excellence Center, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

An Ideal diversity program appropriate for a for a myriad of audiences and events:

Corporations
Colleges, universities, and high schools
Law schools and bar associations
Civic and cultural organizations
Houses of worship
Diversity Conferences & Summits
Diversity Programming
Diversity Week
First Year Orientation & Experiences
Professional Development
Faculty & Staff Programming
Community Outreach
Keynote Presentations
Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
Credits
And more...