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# Fundraising for the Cornerstone Theater 'The 24 Hour Plays Los Angeles'

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"Targeted Individual" Actors Stuart Berton, Ceci Dominguez, Joel Jimenez, Gema Sanchez, and Alicia Witt  
*Laura Ann Tull*

This past weekend for the first time since 2014, Cornerstone Theater held a fund raiser called "The 24 Hour Plays Los Angeles" at the New Roads School in Santa Monica, California. The event brought together six writers, six directors, and twenty seven actors to write, rehearse and perform six original ten minute plays before a live audience. Seems like gambling. Once committed to do this, there was no turning back. The final product proved to be a worthy, entertaining, and financially effective endeavor.

According to the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater, Michael John Garcés, the participants brought in different props and costumes. The night before the actors told stories and informed the writers what they always wanted to do or perform. For example, actor Käthe Mazur wanted to be angry. According to actress Elisa Davis one of the actors told a story about someone picking his hair.

The work was a collaboration between writers and actors and directors. All done in 24 hours.

After an initial meeting of all parties, the writers were given until 6 am Saturday morning to write. That gave the actors and directors 12 hours to rehearse and prepare each short play. Several of the actors names are recognizable celebrities while others are not as well known, most had never met before, but all managed to pull off a rather professional level piece worthy of the ticket price.

Impressively the group managed to create six thought provoking plays that had never been seen before all on different subjects. The opening play called "Targeted Individual" by Craig Wright, directed by Julie Herbert, explored the Los Angeles group self help trend. The actors Stuart Berton, Ceci Dominguez, Joel Jimenez, Gema Sanchez, and Alicia Witt created an interesting comedic exploration of strangers meeting in a park including a celebrity actress who may or may not have been there for the meeting.

The next play "Enchidna," written by Tom Jacobson and Directed by Peter Howard, explored hate violence and also told the story of two couples and their friendships over Enchidna origami interspersed with singing "West Side Story" and combing a guys hair. As four actors Bahini Turpin, Miriam Peniche, Kenny Ramos, and Andre Hollins interacted, the mood was shifted by Clementine Bordeaux playing perhaps the angel of death with sound. Each time Bordeaux entered she rang a gong and shifted the interactions of the players on the stage.

The third piece of the evening explored what it takes to be a "Super Hero." Written by Larissa FastHorse, and directed by Anna Steers, "Super Hero" involved a street thug (Eisa Davis) challenging a Musical Mayhem on a xylophone (Janina Gavankar), a Crazy Guy (MC Earl), and Preggers (very pregnant) (Erika Christensen) to compete to determine which qualified to be and wear a super hero costume. It is a shame this was a one night only performance though it would be worth a view to find out FastHorse's answer.

In between each play and after intermission the band CT Beats performed. Like the other performers they also had 24 hours to prepare. They created a series of raps to encourage the audience to contribute to the cause of raising funds for Cornerstone in addition to a musical performance after intermission.

The last three plays were just as refreshing as the first ranging from a take on couples therapy, to an exploration of death, and an interesting museum concept.

"Famous Couples Therapy" by Jennifer Rowland and directed by Chris Anthony explored the relationship of famous Greek gods Venus (Zilah Mendoza), and her lover Mars (Jason Grasl) and husband Vulcan (Joji Koyun). It included an interesting use of a wheel barrel as a kind of fifth character. The couples counselor Dr. Menvra (Page Leong) did her best to sort out the drama.

The next piece "wake" by Michael John Garcés seemed the most potentially improvised piece of the

night, with five actors discussing how they would want to die culminating in an all out fist fight to the death. According to actor Käthe Mazur it was all scripted and their Production Assistant Julie Ouelette had fight choreography experience. The actors Jeanette Godoy, Daniel Penilla, Carolyn Van Brundt, Käthe Mazur, and Sarah Wright explored the concept of death to the point of fighting back and then fighting each other.

The final piece of the evening title is the log line, "Museum for the Study of White People." Written by Evangeline Ordaz with Rap Lyrics by Andree Vermeulen and directed by Mark Valdez, this piece explored what a museum about white people might contain. It was a tasteful exploration in humor that managed to make fun of all races putting up pretenses. It also managed to incorporate the growing desire in this country to respect native American heritage and stop celebrating Columbus day but celebrate the culture of the Indigenous people. The performers were Andree Vermeulen, Baron Vaughn, Neetu Badhan-Smith, and Adanna Kenlow.

Overall the Cornerstone Theater company managed to create a successful night of theater demonstrating that the 24 hour Theater concept may be worth the effort with the right people in play.

For more information about Cornerstone theater please visit their [website](#).

## SUGGESTED LINKS

- **Cornerstone Theater Urban Rez indigenous interactive experience in Los Angeles**
- **'Lunatics & Actors' a play Gaslighting with the Four Clowns in Los Angeles**
- **"Shine Darkly Illyria" a Sequel to Shakespeare's 12th Night in Hollywood**
- **ArchwayTheater 'Oedipus Antigone' modern revamp of a classic in North Hollywood**



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