

Ordinary People Theater Troupe

Mission

Ordinary People Theater Troupe strives to eradicate racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, ablism, religious discrimination, and other forms of oppression, and promotes respect, open discourse, and celebration of difference among all individuals and communities at Cornell and beyond.

Vision

The troupe promotes action toward greater social justice in the lives of students at Cornell, at other educational institutions, and in the Ithaca community. The creative, theatrical, high-impact presentations provoke critical discussion and learning about personal, institutional, and cultural oppression. The program promotes an open, safe, challenging, non-partisan space and advocates long-lasting awareness about the pervasiveness of the system of oppression. The troupe retrains the ears and eyes of the viewer in a manner that fundamentally alters the orientation toward learning and socialization. It provokes continual re-examination of the manner in which people respond to others who are different than them.

Goals

In order to achieve this mission and vision, Ordinary People will:

- 1) Perform provocative original and adapted scenes, monologues, music, movement, improvisation, and audience involvement.
- 2) Present views, images, and personal accounts, causing an emotional response that in turn, through facilitated dialogue, becomes motivation to make change in one's own thinking and actions.
- 3) Reduce the barriers between the audience and the presentation by using minimal props, lighting, or staging, and involve the audience in the program, in order to increase the impact experienced by participants.
- 4) Retain a diverse team of social justice activists who care about one another and the campus community, who learn from and teach each other, and who evenly share the duties of administering the troupe's work.

Ordinary People is sponsored by Community Development, a function of Campus Life at Cornell University. This mission statement was adopted 4 April 2004 by the existing membership.