FLINT SYMPOSIUM

Supplemental material to the play by Jose Casas, the symposium aims to look at the Flint water crisis, as well as its causes and effects, from as many different perspectives as possible.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

11:30 AM  Isabelle Molnar, Zine Making
12 PM     Ashley Lucas, Making Documentary Theatre
3 PM      Mona Munroe-Yunis, Juani Olivares, and Nayyirah Shariff, The Fight Isn’t Over
5 PM      Dr. Marty Kaufman, Flint and Beyond: The Future of U.S. Infrastructure
5 PM      Dr. Riana Elyse Anderson, Identity Investigation

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

10:30 AM  Educational Theatre Company, Expect Respect: Storytelling and the Student Voice
10:30 AM  Kaitlin P. Ward, Environmental Injustice and Child Development
11:15 AM  Nina Haley, The Water Crisis: The Best Worst Thing
1 PM      Sunsaes’ Davis, Home: A Live Dance Series
3 PM      Dr. Peter B. Duffy, Theatre of the Oppressed
4 PM      Bloom, A Play Reading
Zine Making — Isabelle Molnar
11 AM, Studio Two
Isabelle Molnar will be leading a collaging workshop, in which we source from mixed media to process information and emotions, as well as help to spread awareness about water justice in Michigan. This will be a healing space, and at the end the collages will be made into a zine that, upon the consent of the participants, will be distributed throughout campus and beyond.

Making Documentary Theatre — Dr. Ashley Lucas
12 PM, Acting for the Camera Studio
Ashley Lucas will lead an introductory workshop in key principles in creating documentary theatre about living communities.

The Fight Isn’t Over — Mona Munroe-Yunis, Juani Olivares, and Nayyirah Shariff
3 PM, Towsley Studio
Panel guests will discuss the issues revolving the Flint Water Crisis and their roles as activists in this ongoing environmental and humanitarian tragedy.

Flint and Beyond: The Future of U.S. Infrastructure — Dr. Marty Kaufman
5 PM, Studio Two
The devastating water crisis in Flint, Michigan illustrates the poor state of infrastructure in the U.S. today. This talk will address this infrastructure crisis, and propose measures for its resolution.

Identity Investigation — Dr. Riana Elyse Anderson
5 PM, Towsley Studio
Riana Elyse Anderson uses mixed methods in clinical interventions to study racial discrimination and socialization in Black families to reduce racial stress and trauma and improve psychological well-being and family functioning.
Expect Respect: Storytelling and the Student Voice — Educational Theatre Company
10:30 AM, Studio Two
This workshop will guide participants through UM’s Educational Theatre Company’s devising process, beginning with focus groups, experimenting with form, and ending with lab-based editing of the work. Through this workshop, participants will practice methods to center student voices and experiences, and employ strategies to prepare students for political engagement.

Environmental Injustice and Child Development — Kaitlin P. Ward
10:30 AM, Newman Studio
The Flint water crisis is an example of environmental injustice that has particularly deleterious effects for the children of Flint. This talk will elucidate the long-term physiological impact the Flint crisis can have on children, and how the Flint crisis may be interpreted and processed through the eyes of children.

The Water Crisis: The Best Worst Thing — Nina Haley
11:15 AM, Newman Studio
Nina Haley will be discussing some of the rich history of Flint and tackling the question: what happened to Flint? this session, we will be examining the past, present, and future of Flint from the perspective of a lifetime resident, focusing in on the changes that still must be made in Flint.

Home: A Live Dance Series — Sunsae’ Davis
1 PM, Studio 2
Home is a series of dances collectively reflecting the history and issues Flint, Michigan. It will be collided with hip-hop music and video documentation of Flint regarding the people, the water and the homes.

Activating Community Participation through Theatre of the Oppressed — Dr. Peter B. Duffy
3 PM, Studio 2
This workshop will focus on participant stories of moments when we felt called to speak or act up, but didn’t know what to say or do. Using techniques created and collected by Augusto Boal, the renowned Brazilian theatre artist and social activist, we will revisit those moments and explore possible actions we could have taken.

BLOOM — A Play Reading
4 PM, Newman Studio
SMTD students in collaboration with Blank Space Workshop will perform playwright Andrew Morton’s play about the relationship between two residents of Flint as they find connections through the cultivation of a community gardens.