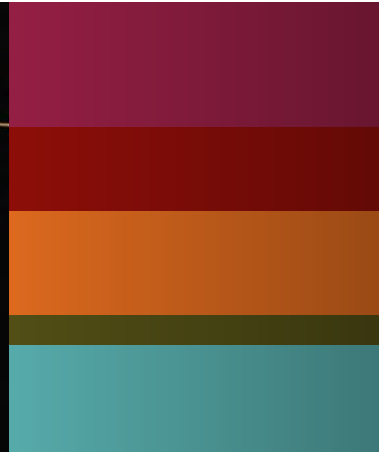




Exploring **Social Relations** & **Human Conflict** through **Performance**



The Performance Lab works with theatre artists and organizations across the country **to produce and support cultural events and bridge-building activities that explore human conflict and social relations through the lens of performance**—both on the stage and in life. Increasingly recognized as a powerful engine of development, performance is at the heart of the All Stars Project (ASP), where people of all ages and from all walks of life are supported to perform and **experience new ideas, people and cultures as they learn and grow together.**

(L) Kelsey Milbourn, Dakota Ratliff and Johanna Nchekwube in *This time* by Brian Dang at Undermain Theatre, directed by Gabrielle Kurlander.

Photo: Rob Menzel

(R) Chatyra Miller and Tonya Shaw in the *1619 Project, One-Act Festival* at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, directed by Gabrielle Kurlander.

Photo: Production shot courtesy of Bishop Arts Theatre Center

OPERATION CONVERSATION

“This is a space where one can heal in previously unthought ways and create something beautiful alongside others. Operation Conversation is something to be experienced!”

— Zyair Crump, ASP Alumnus, NJ

Operation Conversation, All Stars Project’s newest bridge-building initiative, has been created to address the social and racial divides in America. In virtual and in-person workshops, adults aged 21 and above from diverse communities and all walks of life learn and perform with new tools that develop empathy, appreciation, active listening, and curiosity skills. Using the power of performance, these workshops engage racism and promote healing in everyday life.

Operation Conversation is a Performance Lab initiative. It was created and is led by Gabrielle Kurlander, Founder, Performance Lab and Antoine Joyce, ASP Senior Vice President and Dallas City Leader.

For more information about Operation Conversation, contact operationconversation@allstars.org.





John Rankin, III and Michael Alcide (center) in a staged reading of *BALDWIN/KENNEDY* by Jared Glenn and Jacqueline Salit produced by Performance Lab and directed by Gabrielle Kurlander.

Photo: Ronald Glassman

Transformative Community Theatre

Performance Lab seeks to support creative spaces where artists and audiences can engage with the relevant, and often difficult, issues of the day in the hopes of creating a shared conversation and community.

In its first year, Performance Lab contributed creatively to cultural work throughout the country, from New York City, to Dallas, Texas to Sedona, Arizona.

The Performance Lab was founded and is led by Gabrielle Kurlander



Gabrielle Kurlander is an award-winning theatre director, actor and producer with a career in political, multicultural and avant-garde theatre. Productions directed by Gabrielle have received six AUDELCO Awards, including Best Director. In 2023 she was awarded the Humanitarian and Social Justice Advocacy Award by Woodie King Jr's New Federal Theatre.

As the founding CEO of the All Stars Project (ASP) from 1990 to 2023, Gabrielle led the organization in building transformative afterschool development programs for youth from poor and underserved communities, using performance to unlock and grow their power to create their lives. She also used this innovative performance approach to youth and community development to create bridge-building initiatives between diverse communities. Gabrielle serves on the boards of the ASP and TACA (The Arts Community Alliance) of Dallas.

“Performance can and must play a critical role in building the bridges necessary for moving our country toward a shared community and humanity. This is the role culture plays, and I am excited to be working on this new dynamic cultural platform at the All Stars Project.

– Gabrielle Kurlander

“Gabrielle has this gift for making you feel ‘seen’. Working with her is a dream for an artist; she knows how to create a safe space in which we can be ourselves, explore, try, fail, and get back on our feet.

– Shoshana Wilder, Actor

CONTACT US

If you would like to learn more about Performance Lab, contact Dan Kelly at dkelly@allstars.org.

CLICK OR
SCAN CODE
to email Dan



ABOUT THE ALL STARS PROJECT

The All Stars Project is a privately funded national nonprofit organization with a 40-year history of grassroots organizing and community building in poor neighborhoods. Its mission is to transform the lives of youth from under-served communities using the developmental power of performance in partnership with caring adults, giving everyone the opportunity to grow. ASP's award-winning programs bring people from all racial, economic and social walks of life together to create something positive, new and transformative for all involved. ASP operates nationally in New York City; Newark and Jersey City, NJ; Chicago, Dallas; and the San Francisco Bay Area with volunteers and partnerships in over 20 states.

