
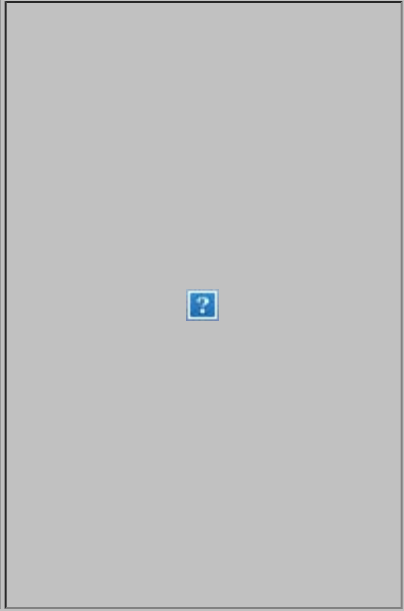


Cornerstone Theater Wants You to Help with Script for Taper Forum Play

(March 30) Wannabe playwrights and actors: here's your opportunity to be involved in the development of an "epic, multi-lingual, musical" stage production at one of LA's leading live theaters.

The Cornerstone Theater Company of Los Angeles wants MTA employees to help by providing ideas that can be used to create a script for "For Here or to Go," scheduled for eight to 10 performances in December on the main stage at the Mark Taper Forum.

<p>SCENES FROM A BUS</p> <p>All the world's a stage, or, in this case, a Metro Bus, in these scenes from the 1997 Cornerstone Theater Company production of "Token, Alien" at MOCA.</p>	 	<p>Share your experiences</p> <p>An invitation sent to the MTA invites employees to "share with us your perspective and experiences of Los Angeles." Playwright Allison Carey, co-founder of Cornerstone, will conduct a focus group from 10 a.m. until noon, April 8, at the company's office at 708 Traction Ave. in downtown LA.</p> <p>"We want as many people from the MTA as possible to come – drivers, mechanics, dispatchers, office personnel," says Mark Valdez, Cornerstone assistant director. "We need their perspectives on the transit industry and on how they view the community, its sights and sounds."</p>
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Employees of the Los Angeles Library, U.S. Post Office and LAPD, also are invited to participate in the April 8 focus group. The theater will conduct 11 focus groups in preparation for script writing.

Want 25 - 30 participants

The sessions will gather ideas from some 14 communities, trades or professions Cornerstone has worked with on previous productions. Valdez is hoping for 25 to 30 participants at the April 8 meeting. For additional information, contact Tamar Fortgang, program coordinator, at 213-613-1700.

Once all focus groups have been conducted, Carey will draft a script for presentation in July during a workshop for focus group participants. She will use the feedback from the workshop audience to finalize the script.

Rehearsals for "For Here or to Go" will begin Oct. 5. As in previous Cornerstone productions, the cast will be a mix of professional and amateur actors. The first performance is scheduled Dec. 11 at the Mark Taper Forum.

MTA employees, bus in 1997 play

MTA employees acted in a series of Cornerstone dramas, called "bUS pLAY," in 1997 at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Ten employees - Rashaad Ali, Rick Coutts, Dan Denkins, Fred Fluker, Luther Fortinberry Irma Hill, Patrick Hilton, Richard Lopez, Gloria Mitchell and Leslie Jones - had roles as bus operators in the plays.

The agency also provided a Series 1800 coach, which was parked inside the museum and served as both stage and seating for the audiences.

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