

HOWLROUND CHALLENGE CONVENINGS

Deaf Theatre Action Planning Session

DESCRIPTION

A gathering of Deaf theatre producers and administrators from across the country, intended to develop a future-focused, action-oriented plan for creating a national network and training-to-production "pipelines" that foster the long-term education and advancement of all Deaf theatre artists.

WHEN

March 2019

PROPOSED BY

Tyrone Giordano, Rachel Grossman, DJ Kurs, Ethan Sinnott

BIOS

TYRONE GIORDANO



Tyrone Giordano is a DC-based theatremaker, translator, educator, and instigator, often taking on multiple roles in any single production. Most prominent is his work with Deaf West Theatre as Huckleberry Finn in the Tony-honored *Big River* on Broadway in 2003, earning him a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Actor in a Musical. Tyrone has also acted on television and film, notably in *The Family Stone*, *A Lot Like Love*, *The Next Three Days*, and *CSI*. Other Deaf West: *Pippin*, *At Home at the Zoo* dog & pony dc: *Toast*, *Squares*. Tyrone now works as a Community Engagement Strategist for [CSD, Inc.](#)

RACHEL GROSSMAN



Rachel Grossman likes beets, brussels sprouts, bourbon, infographics, action movies, and well-facilitated discussions. She is the Ensemble Director and a co-founder of [dog & pony dc](#). Rachel's also a mentor through Arts Marketers Association UK's Audience Diversity Academy, an artistic partner with the DeafBlind Theatre Institute, a member of the Committee of the Jubilee, and is developing *Nice & Lily*, a performance for 4-6 year-olds and their parents about openly discussing race. She's a reckless imaginer, a believer in collective creation, an audience advocate, and ally of practitioners and ideas forced to the margins of the mainstream.

DJ KURS



DJ Kurs is the artistic director of [Deaf West Theatre](#) (DWT), which was founded in 1991 to improve and enrich the cultural lives of deaf individuals who live in the Los Angeles area. DWT's adaptation of *Big River* earned two Tony nominations and a Tony Honor for Excellence, and went on to tour both nationally and internationally. In 2015, DWT's *Spring Awakening* garnered three Tony nominations and performed on the broadcast of the Tony Awards. In 2017: Edward Albee's *Home at the Zoo* at the Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, *Our Town* at the Pasadena Playhouse and *American Buffalo* at CAPA.

ETHAN SINNOTT



Ethan Sinnott is a DC-area Deaf theatre artist, director, scene designer, and the head of [Gallaudet University's](#) Theatre and Dance program. MFA, Boston University.