



Teaching Artist: Penn Live Arts Student Discovery Program (*Zooman and the Sign*)

Penn Live Arts seeks an experienced teaching artist to lead pre-performance visits to K-12 schools prior to a performance of *Zooman and the Sign*, a revival of Charles Fuller's 1980 play by the Negro Ensemble Company, part of the Accelerator Program at Penn Live Arts.

About Penn Live Arts

As the University of Pennsylvania's home for the performing arts, Penn Live Arts connects diverse audiences with visionary artists and innovative ideas, engaging both the University and the greater Philadelphia community in transformative artistic experiences.

For over 50 years, the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been a leading presenter of innovative and transformative performing arts experiences in the Philadelphia region and a vital resource for the performing arts at the University of Pennsylvania. In June 2021, the Annenberg Center launched a new brand identity, Penn Live Arts, to reflect a deeper integration with the University and an expanded canvas for presenting performances. Penn Live Arts, headquartered at the Annenberg Center, is an artistic crossroads joining Penn and the greater Philadelphia region through world-class music, dance, theatre and film on campus and at venues throughout the city.

Penn Live Arts serves as a key asset for the University's students and faculty by enhancing curriculum through artist residencies and masterclasses, supporting student performing arts and providing career development opportunities. For younger audiences, Penn Live Arts' Student Discovery series offers weekday matinees and the annual Philadelphia Children's Festival, established in 1985 as the first event of its kind in the nation, serves children and families in the region with a range of interactive arts experiences.

About the production

In February 2024, Penn Live Arts will present *Zooman and the Sign*, a revival of a 1980 play by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and Philadelphia native Charles Fuller. *Zooman* portrays the difficult reckoning of a Black Philadelphia family and neighborhood over the shooting death of a 12-year-old girl. PLA will present two public performances and one school-day matinee as part of our Student Discovery Series.

Teaching artist responsibilities

In Fall 2023, PLA's Education and Engagement department will launch a multi-step engagement program around Student Discovery, our K-12 student matinee program. Schools that have booked tickets to *Zooman* will be offered an optional pre-performance visit to their classroom.

For *Zooman*, the teaching artist will

- Read Charles Fuller's *Zooman and the Sign* and learn about any changes the Negro Ensemble Company is planning to make for the 2024 PLA production.

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- Familiarize themselves with Charles Fuller and the historical context of the play's creation and production (criticism, reception, etc).
- Work with PLA Education staff to develop developmentally appropriate classroom plans and activities that engage students creatively and analytically around themes, questions, and motives in the script and story. Student outputs may include discussion, visual art, theatre, or writing activities. Teaching artists may be asked to prepare plans that can be adapted to a range of grade levels.
- Present a 45 min to 1-hour classroom visit for up to three schools whose classes plan to attend the student matinee.
- Assist in preparing post-show reflection questions and activities that build upon the classroom visit and that teachers and students can respond to independently.
- Hiring is expected to be completed by September 2023, but activities will take place beginning in January 2024.

Qualifications

- Background as a theatre artist and/or creative writer.
- 3-5+ years of experience working with K-12 students, especially late middle through high school (grades 8 – 12)
- Dynamic classroom presence; ability to locate key creative and academic connections in source material and to connect quickly with students through their existing experiences and interests.
- Professional and courteous manner; punctual, communicative, and organized.
- Strong background in African-American literature/theatre desirable.
- High School diploma.

Compensation: \$60-75/hour, depending on experience. Engagement is expected to take between 5 hours (including 4 hours prep and 1 hour of classroom time) and 8 hours (3 hours classroom time with an additional hour of prep) Teaching artists will also receive a \$20 travel stipend per assigned school. Other than classroom visits, all other work can be performed remotely.

As a condition of hiring, teaching artists are subject to a three-part background check.

To apply: send a resume and letter of interest to Leah Falk, Director of Education and Engagement (leahfalk@upenn.edu).

Application deadline: August 1, 2023