



POP Tour 2020 Impact Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.....	3
WHAT IS THE POP TOUR?.....	4
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS.....	5-7
ABOUT <i>EMILY DRIVER'S GREAT RACE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE</i>	8
THE DEDICATED CREATORS AND CAST.....	9-11
SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SERVED.....	12-13
ORIGINAL MAP OF TOUR STOPS.....	14
DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOLS SERVED.....	15
POP TOUR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS & TIMELINE.....	16
PRE-SHOW WORKSHOP.....	17
POST-SHOW LESSON.....	18
STORY OF IMPACT.....	19
PRESS.....	20-21
ENTHUSIASTIC THANKS FROM STUDENTS.....	22-25
2021 POP TOUR ANNOUNCEMENT.....	26



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A sincere thank you to everyone who supported our 2020 Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour, *Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space*. This year's play, in partnership with National Disability Theatre (NDT), brought an exciting piece of theatre to students across San Diego County.

Directed by NDT Co-Executive Directors Talleri McRae and Mickey Rowe, *Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space* shares the story of history-obsessed 12-year-old Emily Driver. When denied her request for a needed wheelchair, Emily launches into a time-traveling trip across the country where she meets trailblazing activists who fought for accessibility rights. Along the way, she learns to speak up for herself.

This year almost every member of the cast and creative team identified as having a disability. As Talleri McRae shared, "Access and innovation go hand in hand. Including people of all abilities is a wildly creative act." It was essential to have members of the disability community championing this story.

Since 1987, La Jolla Playhouse has made a commitment to theatre for young audiences by commissioning a new play each year for students by a world-class artist. With numerous visits made throughout San Diego County, each "tour stop" brings an opportunity to introduce children to the joy of live theatre, showing them that not only is it accessible but also relevant to their lives.

It has been a pleasure to see the impact of this year's POP Tour. We have received numerous letters from students expressing their joy in seeing the play. One student, Isaa from Bell Middle School, shared, "It was nice when Emily gave her speech to Hugh to be nicer to people. I also learned that people should be treated the same." Another student, Nicole from Pacific Beach Elementary, wrote a letter to Cass (Emily) and said, "You inspire me to try new things. You should keep brightening people's days. Thank you for coming to our school!"

I hope you enjoy learning more about this year's POP Tour. The students' reactions and the impact of this play reminded me of how important this program is for the community. Thank you again for your support! All of us at the Playhouse look forward to partnering with you again for our 2021 POP Tour.

With gratitude,

Bridget Cavaiola
Interim Director of Education

WHAT IS THE POP TOUR?

For over 30 years, La Jolla Playhouse's Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour has been sharing the joy of live theatre with children throughout San Diego County. Traveling each year to schools, community centers, military bases and libraries, the POP Tour brings an original play with a new theme for children to learn from and discuss.

The POP Tour offers students the ability to experience theatre in a way that is both relevant and accessible to their lives. Before seeing their assembly, students participate in an interactive workshop with a teaching artist where they explore the central ideas and issues at the core of the play through a variety of activities. Following the performance, students are encouraged to ask any questions of the performers, whether it's about the play, the process, or both.



Farah Dinga, Cass Pfann and Jaye Wilson in the 2020 POP Tour *Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space*; photo by Jamie Lytle.



Photo by Jamie Lytle.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

The 2020 POP Tour commission is made possible through the generous support of The Potiker Family.

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Thank you to the following donors for their inspiring gifts of \$10,000 and more:

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Thank you to the following donors for their inspiring gifts of \$5,000 and more:

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Kelly and Mike Moore
Judith and Alan Robbins
Ms. Leilani Jones Wilmore

*In Loving Memory

Thank you to the following donors for their inspiring gifts of up to \$999:

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Mary Long
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Brian Loveman
Elizabeth Lubrano
Robin Luby
Janet G. Malone
Gary & Bernardine Maloney
Lois Martin
David & Carolyn Matthews
Mac & Tort McCarter
Ann Ashworth McDonald
Mary & Elgie McGrath
Dr June Melin
David & Patricia Meyers
Ellen R. Michaels
Bonnie Minamide
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Tracie & Daniel Monk
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Ernest & Darlene Tamayo
William Tong
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Virginia Valentine
Susan Weekes*
Sharon Weremiuk
Martha White
Peter & Joan Winokur
Barbara ZoBell

*In Loving Memory

ABOUT EMILY DRIVER'S GREAT RACE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

Synopsis

History-obsessed 12-year-old Emily Driver uses her YouTube channel to celebrate landmark moments of activism and change. So when her request for a needed wheelchair is denied, she takes matters into her own hands – and launches into a time-traveling trip across the country where she meets trailblazing leaders from the past who have fought for equal rights. On the journey, she learns the power of speaking up and how one voice can inspire others to create a more accessible world. In partnership with the National Disability Theatre, a team of actors, writers and designers with disabilities brings this inventive and original story to life.



Top: Jaye Wilson, Farah Dinga and Cass Pfann. Bottom: Paúl Araújo and Cass Pfann. Photos by Jamie Lytle.



The Dedicated Creators and Cast



TALLERI A. McRAE, *Co-Executive Director of National Disability Theatre*

Talleri is a disabled theatre artist based in Louisville, KY. In addition to her work as a visiting teaching artist for grades K-12, Talleri collaborates as an access consultant with organizations like Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts and Indiana Repertory Theatre. Talleri is the co-founder of National Disability

Theatre (established 2018), alongside advocate and theatre artist Mickey Rowe. Mickey and Talleri (on behalf of NDT) served as Artists-in-residence at La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego for their 2019/2020 Season. Talleri holds a B.S. from Northwestern University and an M.F.A. from The University of Texas at Austin.



MICKEY ROWE, *Co-Executive Director of National Disability Theatre*

Mickey was the first autistic actor to play Christopher Boone in the Tony Award-winning play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. This also made him the first autistic actor ever to play an autistic character professionally. He has been featured in the *New York Times*, PBS, *Teen Vogue*, *Playbill*, NPR, CNN, *Huffington Post*, and *Salon*.

He has also keynoted at organizations, including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Yale School of Drama, The Gershwin Theatre and more. Mickey is a co-founder of National Disability Theatre. Up next, he will be starring as Mozart in *Amadeus*.

**A.A. BRENNER**, *Playwright*

A.A. Brenner is a playwright, dramaturg, and native New Yorker. Their plays have been produced by Shakespeare Theatre Company's Fellows Consortium, Three Muses Theatre Company, Young Playwrights Inc., The Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts, Columbia University, and The Hangar Theatre Lab Company, among others. They are a winner of the 2012 Young Playwrights Inc. National Playwriting Competition. Brenner's writing blends naturalistic dialogue with heightened verse and magical realism to explore queer, Jewish and disability themes, challenging

both societal power structures and theatrical form. They are a current M.F.A. Playwriting candidate at the Columbia University School of the Arts.

**GREGG MOZGALA**, *Playwright*

Gregg Mozgala's recent acting credits include *Teenage Dick* at The Public Theater (Drama League Award nomination for Distinguished Performance) and New York Theatre Workshop's revival of *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*. He received a Lucille Lortel Award (Best Featured Actor) for his work in Martyna Majok's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Cost of Living* at Manhattan Theatre Club. Mozgala is the subject of the documentary, *Enter the Faun*, which aired on the award-winning PBS series, *America Reframed*. He is the Director of Inclusion at Queens

Theatre and the Founding Artistic Director of The Apothetae, a theatre company dedicated to producing works that explore and illuminate the "Disabled Experience," as well as a member of NDT's Advisory Company.

**PAÚL ARAÚJO**, *Hugh*

A native of San Diego, Paúl is very honored to be part of what might be the first-ever play about disability rights with La Jolla Playhouse and National Disability Theatre. Other credits: *La Pastorela*, *The Pitch* with Paul Rodriguez, *Anna in the Tropics*, *Lesson 443*, *Logan Heights*, *Journey of the Skeletons*, *Let the Eagle Fly*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Saturday Night at the Palace*, *Zoot Suit*, *The Who's Tommy*, among others. At the American College Theater Festival, Paúl, a member of Los Amigos del REP, was nominated for an Irene Ryan Award for his work in *Mariachi*

Quixote. Aside from theatre, Paúl is an advocate for people with developmental disabilities and has served as a teaching artist for at-risk youth through The Old Globe's educational program. He holds an A.A. in Theatre Arts from Southwestern College and attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City.

**FARAH DINGA**, *Lady J/Reverend*

Farah is thrilled to be making her La Jolla Playhouse debut. She recently graduated from U.C. San Diego with a B.A. in Theatre. Recent theatre credits include *Around the World in 80 Days* (New Village Arts), *Dance Nation* (Moxie Theatre), *Monster* (Wagner New Play Festival at UCSD), *SERE* (WNPF, UCSD), *Our Town* (UCSD), *1.2.3.4.* (OnTheLine Collective), *2x2* (Cat and Crow), and many more.

**CASS PFANN**, *Emily*

Cass is a San Diego-based actor who is making her professional debut in this production. Her favorite roles have been *Ragtime* (grandfather/ensemble), *Sunday in the Park with George* staged reading (Marie), both with J*Company Youth Theatre. She also loved her experience with *8000M* (assistant director) with Golden Shards productions. She is grateful to Morgan Carberry, her inspiration and teacher.

**JAYE WILSON**, *Sally/Teddi*

Jaye is a multifaceted performer, having worked as an actor, singer, dancer, musician, drag artist and more. They have graced stages from coast to coast, ranging from nightclubs and cabarets to theatres and Carnegie Hall. A few of their favorite roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Argemone (et al.) in *Allegory* (La Jolla Playhouse WOW Festival), and their critically acclaimed turn as Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Diversionary Theatre).

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SERVED

2020 POP Tour School	School District	Title 1
Audubon PreK-8	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Barnett Elementary	Ramona Unified School District	No
Bell Middle School	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Borrego Springs Elementary	Borrego Springs Unified School District	Yes
Conway Elementary	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Curie Elementary	Escondido Union School District	No
Dana Middle School	San Diego Unified School District	No
EJE Academies	Charter School	Yes
Ella B. Allen Elementary	Chula Vista Elementary School District	Yes
Epiphany Prep Charter School	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Felicita Elementary	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Francis Parker Lower School	Private	No
Freese Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Glen View Elementary	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Hancock Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Hawthorne Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Hidden Valley Middle School	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Hillsdale Middle School	Cajon Valley Union School District	No
JCS Cedar Cove Academy	San Diego Unified School District	No
L.R. Green Elementary	Escondido Union School District	No
La Jolla Country Day School	Private	No
La Jolla Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	No
Laura Rodriguez Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Loma Portal Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	No
Los Altos Elementary	Chula Vista Elementary School District	Yes
Miller Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Montgomery Middle STEAM Magnet	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Mueller Charter School	Chula Vista Elementary School District	Yes
Nye Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Ocean Beach Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Otay Elementary	Chula Vista Elementary School District	Yes
Pacific Beach Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Palomar Elementary	Chula Vista Elementary School District	Yes
Reidy Creek Elementary	Escondido Union School District	No
Rock Springs Elementary	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Rowan Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
San Diego Air & Space Museum/ Rosa Parks Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
San Diego French American School	Private	No

San Diego Jewish Academy	Private	No
Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts	Vista Unified School District	Yes

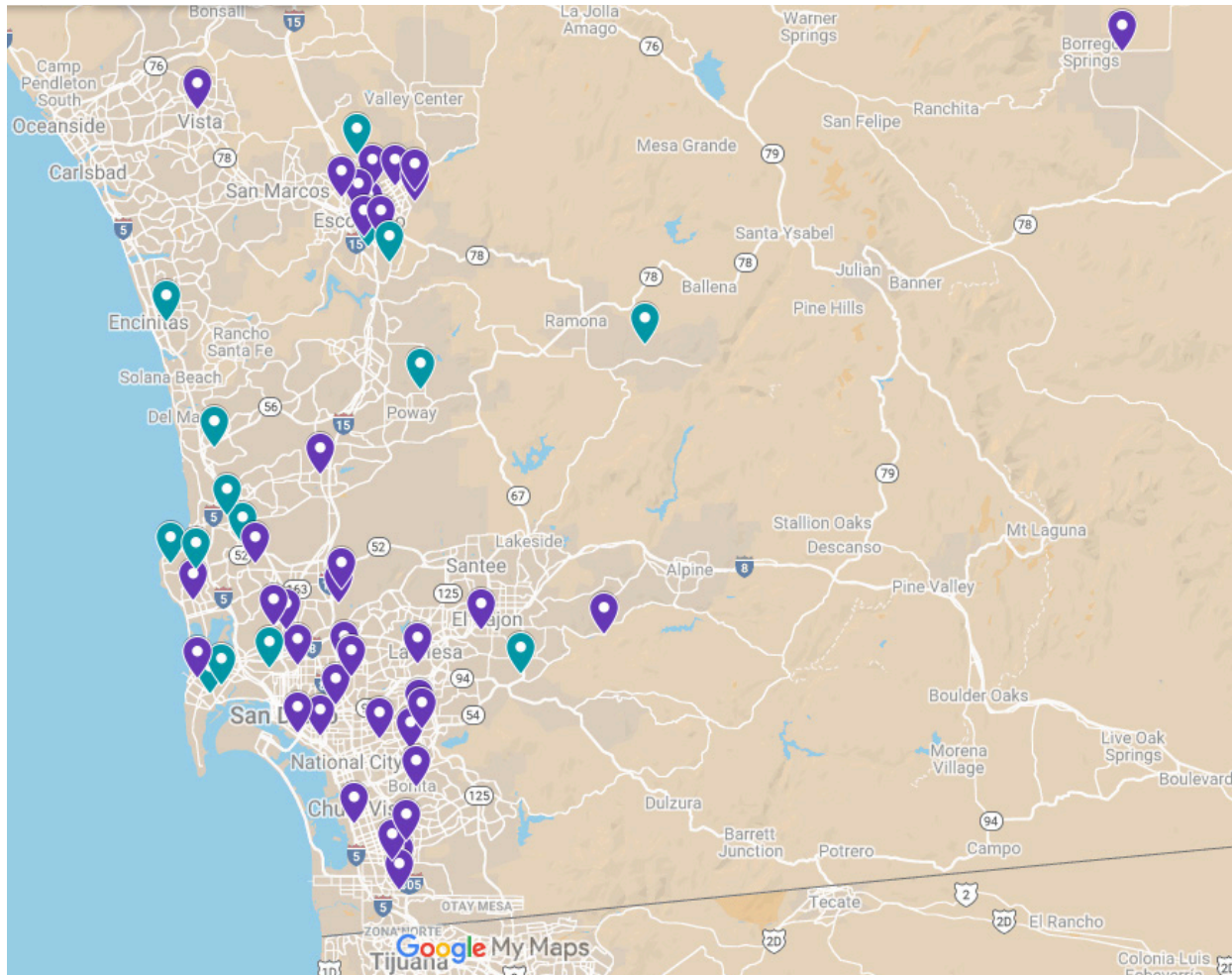
Community Venues



SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF CORONAVIRUS

2020 POP Tour School	School District	Title 1
Birney Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Central Elementary	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Dehesa School	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
EUSD Miller School	Escondido Union School District	No
Finney Elementary	Chula Vista Elementary School District	Yes
Fletcher Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Franklin Elementary STEAM Magnet	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Juniper Elementary	Escondido Union School District	Yes
La Mesa Dale Elementary	La Mesa-Spring Valley School District	Yes
Perkins K-8	San Diego Unified School District	Yes
Quantum Academy	Escondido Union School District	Yes
Tierra Bonita Elementary	Poway Unified School District	No
Walker Elementary	San Diego Unified School District	Yes

ORIGINAL MAP OF TOUR STOPS

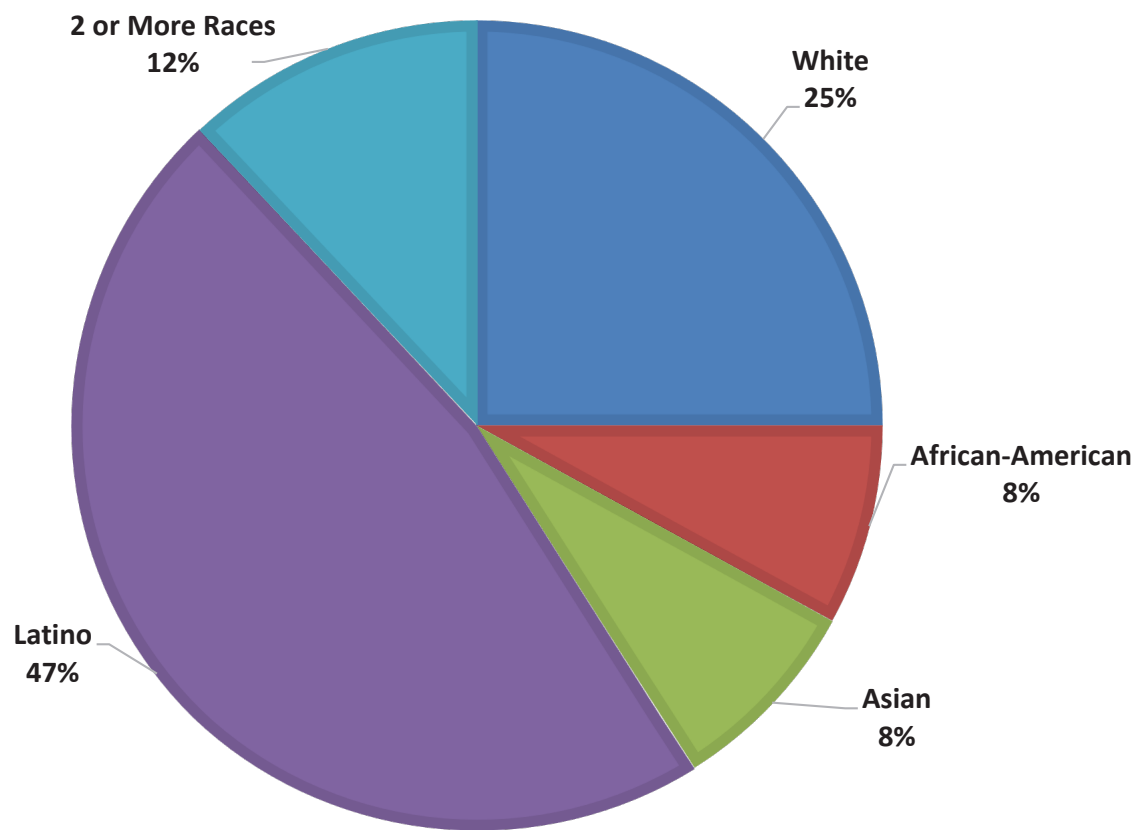


■ Title I School

■ Non-Title I School

This is a map of the original tour stops before the pandemic.
Unfortunately we had to cancel 15 performances.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOOLS SERVED



POP TOUR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS & TIMELINE

Fall 2018	Playhouse commissions National Disability Theatre to create a piece for the 2020 POP Tour.
Spring 2019	Playhouse receives the first draft of <i>Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space</i> .
September 2019	<p>Playhouse receives the second draft of <i>Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space</i>.</p> <p>The Playhouse hosts a first reading of <i>Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space</i>. A handful of supporters and families from partnering schools are invited to attend and share their feedback with the creative team.</p>
October 2019	Final scenic and costume designs are submitted.
November – December 2019	Casting for POP Tour begins, and the scenic shop starts building the set.
January 2020	Weeks of intensive rehearsal begin, with tech occurring towards the end of the month. The first preview at Sequoia Elementary is held on January 27.
February – March 2020	Production tours San Diego County, reaching over 10,000 students. Classrooms are offered additional educator support (workshops, activities and lesson plans) both before and after their scheduled POP Tour assembly.

PRE-SHOW WORKSHOP

EMOJIS AND REPRESENTATION

Framework: In this lesson, students will explore the concept of representation as it pertains to both the creation of art for underrepresented groups and the importance of having those groups represented both in the process and the performance of art.

Objectives: Students will be able to:

- Identify what representation means.
- Reflect on the importance of representing one's culture and identity.
- Create a set of emojis that are specific to them and their own identity.

Materials: Markers, crayons, pens/ pencils, paper **Vocabulary:** representation, identity, culture and emoticon/emoji

Step 1:

- Start the lesson by asking students to define what an emoji is and what emoji they most frequently use.
- Divide the students into small groups and have the students brainstorm on a piece of paper as many facts or ideas they know about emojis.
- Share some of the following background information about the history of emojis:
 - The origin of emojis were "emoticons" which emerged in the 1990s.
 - The first "emojis" were created in 1999 by Japanese artist Shigetaka Kurita.
 - In 2009, a pair of Apple engineers submitted an official proposal to adopt 625 new emoji characters into the Unicode Standard.
 - In 2013, the emoji trend caught on so rapidly that it was added as a word by Oxford Dictionaries.
- Ask students the following questions:
 - What do you like about using emojis?
 - How do you use emojis?
 - What is beneficial about using emojis?
 - What is limiting about emojis?
 - What emojis do you use the most and why?

Step 2:

- Introduce the students to the work of West African Emoji Designer O'Plérou Grebet. Explain that Grebet created more than 365 emojis that portray contemporary West African life.
- Show the students examples of O'Plérou's Emojis
 - What did you learn about life in West Africa by looking at these emojis?
- Explain to students that they are now going to create their own emojis and they will each create at least five or more
 - Explain that the emojis must reflect something about their identity, which could include:
 - their social identity groups (race, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, etc.)
 - their hobbies or interests, topics that are important to them, emotions or moods that are part of who they are
- Have each student share their collection in a small group, and post emojis around the room to demonstrate a representation of their backgrounds.

POST-SHOW LESSON

EXPLORING THE DISABILITY HISTORY TIMELINE

Framework: Now that students have seen the performance of *Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space*, take a deeper dive into exploring some of the activists and events that impacted the disability rights movement.

Objectives: Students will be able to:

- Identify what key activities and historical events that impacted the disability rights movement.
- Research and present information to their peers through a presentation.

Materials: LJPeGuide Link to DISCOVER MORE Disability History Timeline, Tablets or Laptops to view timeline or PDF printouts, Large paper or poster board, markers

Vocabulary: : Americans with Disabilities Act and accessibility

Step 1:

- Have the students chat in pairs to start with the prompt: Thinking about the play, *Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space*, what historical events and people do you remember had an impact on disability rights in the United States?"
- Have the groups share out what they recall from the play. The main events and people mentioned were:
 - o Teddy Mae Leonard (who is based off of a real person, Bobbie Lee Bennett) who is a disabled activist who famously drove from San Diego to Washington, D.C. in 1978.
 - o Section 504: Americans with Disabilities Act
 - o Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which required that all public transportation vehicles after 1993 be accessible to people with wheelchairs.
- Ask the students: Why is it important that all people with disabilities have accommodations and access to what they need? What do you notice in our school that provides accessibility to all people? (Examples might include: Ramps to enter buildings or spaces, curb cutouts, crosswalk sounds and/or raised pavement, etc).

Step 2:

- Break your class into groups of 4-5 students and provide each group with a specific chunk of the timeline that they need to become "experts" on the material.
- Have your group read through their section, and then as a group chooses three events/people that stand out to them. For each event, have them answer the following questions:
 - o Why is this event important to us as student leaders?
 - o Why is this event important to the disability community?
 - o How could the non-disabled community benefit from learning about this event?
- Have the groups record their information on a large piece of the poster and have each group share out to the class their findings. At the end of the lesson, have the students reflect on what they would like to see in the future that would improve the accessibility for people with disabilities.

IMPACT

In addition to teaching students how one voice can make a difference and the importance of being kind, *Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space* also made a lasting, tangible impact.

When the cast and crew arrived at Sequoia Elementary to perform, the team realized that the stage was not accessible. Thinking quickly on their feet, they arranged the set on the floor, making sure to leave enough space to accommodate all the students.

The principal was grateful for their flexibility but upset that they could not use the stage. He relayed this experience to the administrative office at San Diego Unified School District. As a result, the District has promised to build a ramp or lift to ensure everyone has equal access to the stage.

These improvements will leave a lasting impact on Sequoia Elementary. Currently, there is a student who uses a wheelchair and participates in the school's choir. Each week, the teacher lifts her onto the stage. Now, because of a visit from the POP Tour, this student will have the autonomy to get onto the stage on her own using the new lift and ramp. Freeing!



Costume design by Mallory Kay Nelson

PRESS

AMERICAN THEATRE

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The San Diego Union-Tribune

THEATER

La Jolla Playhouse's 'Emily Driver' celebrates the range of human ability — onstage and beyond



Cass Plann (left) and Jaye Wilson work through a scene from the La Jolla Playhouse POP Tour production of "Emily Driver's Great Race Through Time and Space." (Jamie Scott Lytle)



Get U-T Arts & Culture on Thursdays

A San Diego insider's look at what talented artists are bringing to the stage, screen, galleries and more.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

La Jolla Playhouse teaming with National Disability Theatre artists for POP Tour and more



Mickey Rowe (left) and Talleri A. McRae of National Disability Theatre. (James Barker / JW Barker Photography)



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A San Diego insider's look at what talented
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La Jolla Playhouse Launches 2020 POP Tour, Developed In Partnership With National Disability Theatre

by BWW News Desk Jan. 31, 2020



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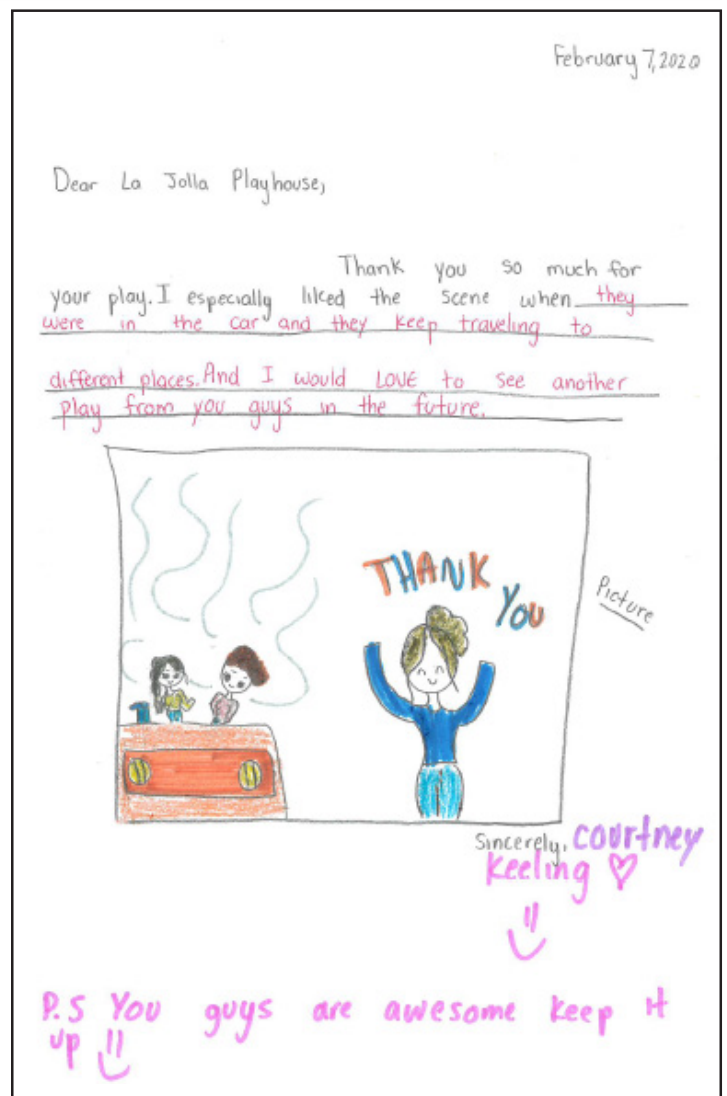
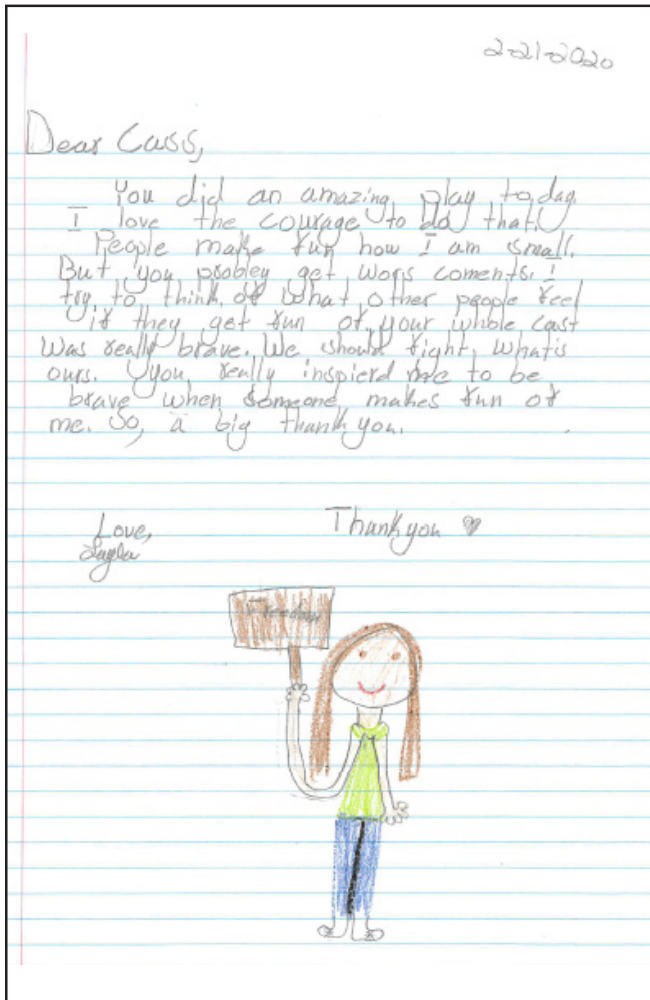
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La Jolla Playhouse is pleased to launch its 2020 Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour production: Emily Driver's Great Race through Time and Space, by A.A. Brenner and Gregg Mozgala, directed by National Disability Theatre (NDT) Co-Executive Directors and Playhouse Artists-in-Residence Talleri A. McRae and Mickey Rowe. The production will tour schools throughout San Diego County January 29 - March 27. Commissioned by the Playhouse, this world-premiere play for young audiences will also have four public performances on February

29 and March 1 at 1:00pm and 3:00pm at La Jolla Playhouse. Tickets are available at LaJollaPlayhouse.org or (858) 550-1010.

ENTHUSIASTIC THANKS FROM STUDENTS



February 7, 2020

Dear La Jolla Playhouse,

Thank you so much for your play. I especially liked the scene when they finally got Hew to give Emily the wheel chair. Hew realized that everybody needs help at some times.



Sincerely,

Aurora Gonzalez



Dear La Jolla Playhouse,
Thank you for coming to Allen school
in Banta California. We enjoyed when
we got to cheer and with the
actors. Also we liked it when you acted
like you thought your character would

Dear La Jolla Playhouse,

Thank you for coming to Allen School, Bonita, CA. We liked the actors and acting. Speaking of acting, we liked chanting and cheering with the actors. Also, we liked the story of the play. We learned how disabled people got their rights. We also learned a bit about how they did something. The final thing I learned is something about the actors. What I personally liked is the time traveling. Thank you for coming to Allen School!

- Cole, Allen Elementary

Dear La Jolla Playhouse Pop Tour,

I wanted to tell you that you did amazing! My classmates loved it and we're thankful for you choosing us. We love you and the play! Now my favorite scene is when Emily's mother was on YouTube and Emily said, "Say hi Mom!", and Emily's Mom said, "HI MOM!". It cracked me up thanks for that. I almost died from laughter! After watching your play, I now know that you need to speak up for what you need and you need to fight for what's right for you.

- Landon, Audubon TK-8

Dear Pop Tour,

Thank you for coming in! I thought it was amazing. It made me feel excited. I think you are the best. Thanks again!

- Michael, Audubon TK-8

Dear La Jolla Playhouse Pop Tour,

Thank you so much for coming to Audubon TK-8 and performing your play. We felt so honored and lucky that you chose us! My favorite scene was when Teddi was in the red Mustang and then Emily joined her. They began to travel back in time to get Hugh to sign 504. I enjoyed this scene because it had really cool sound effects. After watching your play, I learned that you should fight for what is right and fair. It is important to stand up for what you believe and speak up for yourself.

- Estella, Audubon TK-8

Dear La Jolla Playhouse,

Thank you very much for bringing your play to our school. I especially liked when we were able to ask questions about the play. I also appreciated the fact that there was someone who was a part of the LGBTQ+ community. This play was also somewhat relatable because I have a little brother who has autism. Thanks again for coming to Bell!

- Alysha, Bell Middle

Dear La Jolla Playhouse,

Thank you so much for your play. I especially liked the scene when she wanted to take a stand and when she wanted to make buses wheel chair accessible. I loved it when she kept on traveling so she could convince Hugh and Teddi, and I also loved Lady J (she gave fist bumps). Thank you for showing us that disabled people are just like us. My little brother is also disabled (he has short arms), but I am proud of him—he made it this far.

- Yusra, Bell Middle

Dear La Jolla Playhouse,

Thank you so much for your play. I especially liked the scene where Emily and Teddi drove around in the car. I thought it was very funny and entertaining. I also enjoyed when Emily was saying all the wrong things to make Hugh deny her the wheel chair. I found it extremely humorous. Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to come to our school. I feel very honored. I will be talking about this day for a long time.

- Jamie, Bell Middle

Dear Cass,

You put on an amazing play today. I love the courage it took to do that. People make fun of how I am small, but you probably get even worse comments. I try to think of how other people might feel if they get made fun of. Your whole cast was really brave. We should fight for what is ours. You really inspired me to be brave when someone makes fun of me. So, a big thank you to you.

- Layla, Pacific Beach

Dear Ms. Cory,

Thank you for telling us about what the play would be like. Also, when you showed us the breathing exercise—I do it a lot. And now when I get ready to perform I do what you do. You have a really nice voice. Where did you learn how to do those things? I might try and learn what you did. I think you will be a good teacher to other classes! You are one of the best teachers I have ever had. I wish I had your job. Do you perform? If you do, I think you would be good at it!

- Orlando, Pacific Beach

Dear La Jolla Playhouse,

Thank you so much for your play. I especially liked the scene when Emily fought for her wheel chair because life isn't always going to give you the things you want. So sometimes when you want something important you fight for it and that's what Emily did. She walked so far just to get to Washington D.C. to get her wheel chair.

- Flavio, Bell Middle

THE EDUCATION & OUTREACH DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2021 POP TOUR!

PICK ME LAST

Written by Idris Goodwin and directed by Jacole Kitchen, the Playhouse's Artistic Programs Manager and Local Casting Director, *Pick Me Last* will focus on the importance of inclusivity at school.



Idris Goodwin is a multidisciplinary arts leader and creative community builder. Across two decades, he has forged a multifaceted career as an award-winning playwright, Break Beat poet, director, educator and organizer. He is the new Director of The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The Kennedy Center, The Eugene O'Neill Conference, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, and The Playwrights' Center have all honored him by providing developmental support of his career.

"Theatre is where we see ourselves and wrestle with our beliefs. Through the stories of others we reflect on our own. Since racism lives at the intersection of misinformation, ego, and unchecked power, the arts must counteract by cultivating personal reflection, learning, conversation, and compassion...Systemic racism must end now and forever. One way of doing so is talking with our children about it. These five plays are meant to serve as sparks for conversation."

– Idris Goodwin in [American Theatre Magazine](#)



Jacole Kitchen is the Artistic Programs Manager & Local Casting Director at La Jolla Playhouse, spearheading numerous community-based programs. In addition, Jacole teaches acting, improv and professional development for actors through UCSD Extension. Directing credits include: *Cardboard Piano* (Diversionary Theatre), *An Illiad* (New Village Arts) and *September and Her Sisters* (Scripps Ranch Theatre - Ooal New Play Festival). Assistant directing credits include *Tiger Style!* and *Guards at the Taj* (La Jolla Playhouse), *HONKY*, *The Oldest Boy* and *Detroit* (San Diego Repertory Theatre). Jacole currently sits on the board of directors for San Diego Performing Arts League (SDPAL).

We anticipate that *Pick Me Last* will be touring San Diego schools from January – March of 2021 and will keep you informed of all plans as they come together.