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2018

## Fireflies

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### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Iaderosa, Christina, "Fireflies" (2018). *Diversity Learning Communities*. 7.  
<https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/diversity-posters/7>

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# Fireflies

a performance addressing racism, sexism, and other forms of dehumanization.  
presented by Theatre for Community Health peer educators  
Christina Iaderosa, PhD



## What is the Theatre for Community Health?

Theatre for Community Health (TCH) is an exciting way to communicate health and wellness messages across the campus. Since 1991 TCH has produced peer education outreach productions that tour WMU classrooms, residence halls, and nearby campuses. Themes for the productions include discussion of sex and healthy relationships, the college alcohol culture, and diversity issues. FireFlies is one of many performance pieces presented by TCH with a run time of 30 minutes.

## Purpose

Fireflies is a theatrical performance that examines the culture of dehumanization. This piece purposes to inspire thought, meaningful dialogue, and change.



## Project Goals

That the audience will think about how language dehumanizes those around us and realize that they need to take responsibility in discovering and understanding other ethnicities.

## Target Audience

Students of Western Michigan University are the target audience for this program. This program is currently touring the Residence Halls of Main Campus.

## Snippet from Script *Cafeteria Catchup*

WILLARD – Matt  
CILLA – Jessica

MALIK - Darren  
DEVONN -Amann  
RICKY - Nick  
DRAKE -Noah  
PETE - Piyoz  
JIMBO - Kyle  
JOY -Erin  
ALIZA - Sarah  
ALEX - Ajai  
FARAH - Marida

JIMBO: So guys, I wanted to tell you that my cousins are visiting from upstate and they're really really nice people, but they're not very...um, how should I put it.

DRAKE: Verbal?

JIMBO: No. They, you know, they, they, they...

MALIK: Stutter?

JIMBO: No, no. They're really [puts hand out to make a gesture.]

JOY: Young?

JIMBO: Well, yeah, younger than us, maybe. But that's not it. It's a small town that they come from and they're not very.

ALIZA: Cosmopolitan?

JIMBO: Yes. I was going to say "exposed".

DEVONN: It's cool Jimbo. I remember when I first met you and you weren't very "exposed" either. We're all on the spectrum man.

JIMBO: Thanks guys. Here they come, let's not overwhelm them, I'll introduce you.

[WILLARD and CILLA enter the room. JIMBO sees WILLARD and CILLA and invites them over.]

JIMBO: Hey cuz and cuz! Glad you could make it. Come on over and meet my friends. Guys, this is Willard and Cilla.

WILLARD AND CILLA: Hi, hi everybody.

JIMBO: First off, this is Pete, he's my roommate.

PETE: Hi there. It's nice to meet you.

WILLARD: How do you like having my cousin for a roommate?

PETE: Oh he's okay, but he sucks at Reach.

JIMBO: Watch it!

PETE: What? It's true.

JIMBO: And this is my friend Aliza.

[ALIZA stands and comes over to WILLARD and CILLA. She's blind.]

ALIZA: Hi, and welcome to Western! I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have or show you around.

WILLARD: You got something in your eye, dear?

CILLA: I think she's winking at you, maybe she's sweet on you.

ALIZA: Um, no. Actually I'm legally blind.

WILLARD: Oh my! [Loudly] I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT. I DIDN'T SEE YOUR CANE.

ALIZA: I'm blind, I'm not deaf.

CILLA: Do you have a dog? I'm scared of dogs.

ALIZA: No, no. I can see a little bit, shapes and colors. I get around fine.

WILLARD: So you're not really blind. How many fingers am I holding up?

[ALIZA starts to show him a finger of her own when JIMBO jumps in.]

JIMBO: Okay. Now I'd like you to meet...someone else!

*You can read on in the scrip below...pick up in the middle of Page 10.*

