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The Shop Floor Theatre Co.

Innovation Incubator
432 N. Saginaw St Suite 207
Flint, Michigan

SPRING 2013

State of Emergency

A Verbatim Theatre Production

2012-13 University of Michigan and Shop Floor Theatre Co.



Michigan State University Extension

Shop Floor Theatre Company is operated by co-founders Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones who say “the aim of the project is to encourage the community to engage in a larger dialogue about the various issues that led to the appointment of an Emergency Manager, explore multiple perspectives on this controversial issue, but most importantly ask what role each of us can play in the future of Flint.”

This production explores the impact of Michigan’s controversial Public Act 4 (the Emergency Manager Law) to the stage in a verbatim performance.

This project is supported in part pursuant to the receipt of financial assistance to the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any federal, state agency or Michigan State University.



University Outreach and Engagement
Center for Community and Economic Development

STATE OF EMERGENCY





Final Report

State of Emergency

Prepared for:

The MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation
MSU Community and Economic Development
1615 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48912

March 2013

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I. Introduction

- A. **Shop Floor Theatre Company** aims to create original and transformative theatre with and for people of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds. Shop Floor use verbatim theatre and other community-centered techniques to create work that represents diverse voices and opinions, encourages civic dialogue and engagement, and promotes social and political awareness.

- B. **Our Values** we are committed to creating socially engaged theatre that is authentic, empowering and transformative. We value community in all its various forms and acknowledge the diversity in the human experience. We are committed to working with communities who have not traditionally had access to creating, producing, and experiencing live theatre. We value the role of the artist and citizen in a democratic society. We believe there is dignity in every person's story and each has a right to be heard.

- C. **State of Emergency** has been created in part using verbatim theatre, where a script is made up of recorded interviews and found material and edited into a desired structure. Shop Floor Theatre Company is operated by co-founders Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones who say "the aim of the project is to encourage the community to engage in a larger dialogue about the various issues that led to the appointment of an Emergency Manager, explore multiple perspectives on this controversial issue, but most importantly ask what role each of us can play in the future of Flint."

- D. **Methodology:** *The State of Emergency* production explores the impact of Michigan's controversial Public Act 4 (the Emergency Manager Law) to the stage. Since last fall, members of Shop Floor Theatre Company have been conducting interviews and collecting material to create *State of Emergency*, an original play inspired by the appointment of an Emergency Manager to the City of Flint in 2011.

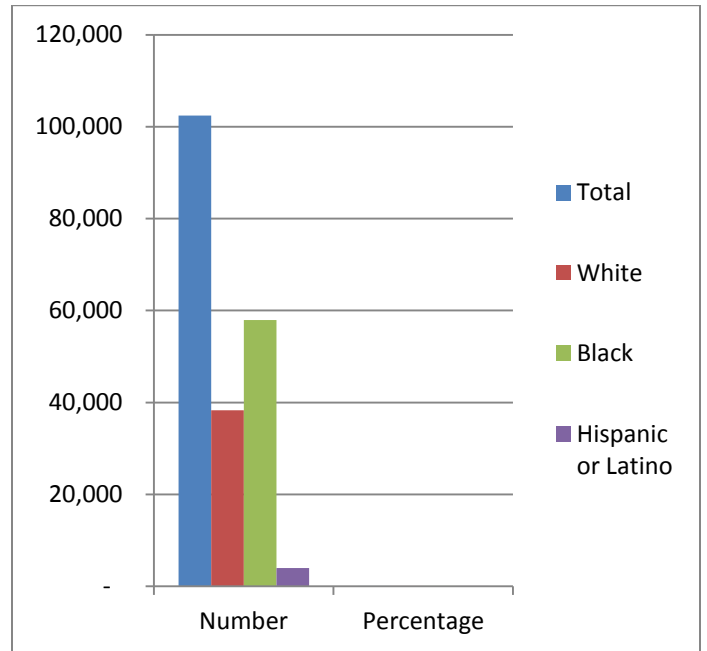
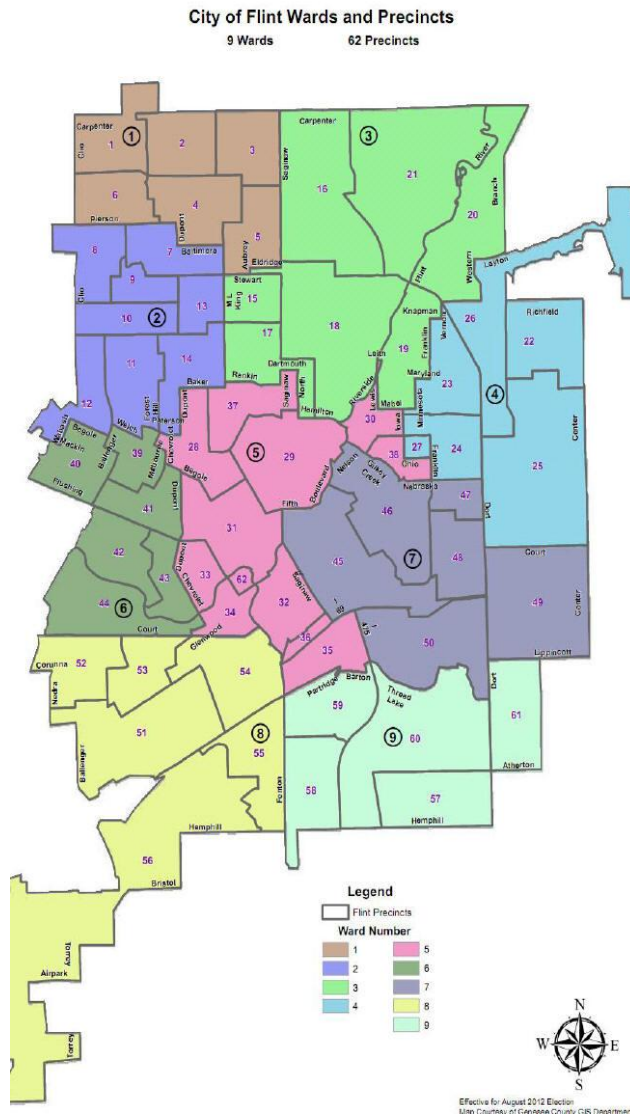
- E. **About this report:** The information in this report is designed to give our supporters insight into the process as well as provide some statistical data that may be used to fulfill deliverables, as a proof for financial support. All documents, photos, graphs and video materials may be used by said funders of the project for their archival, teaching and promotional use.

II. Documentation

A.

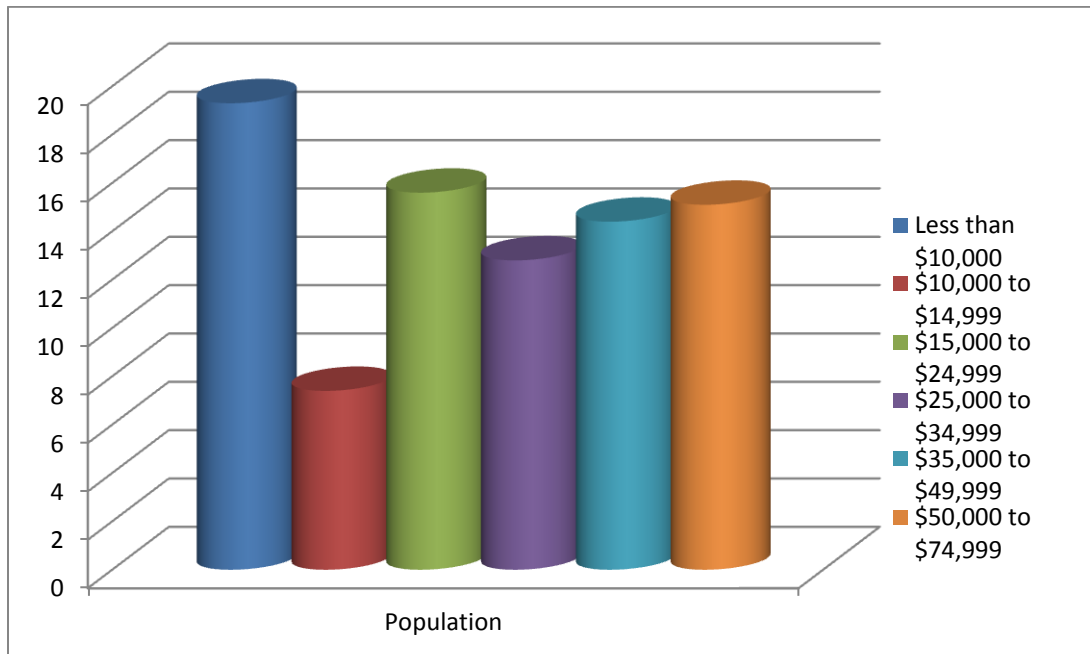
Demographic area served

State of Emergency was performed within the confines of Genesee County with the majority of the performances taking place within the nine wards of Flint Michigan. Each ward presented a unique opportunity due to the demographic and economic breakdown of the city.



According to the U.S. census, of the 102,434 residents of Flint Michigan there are 38,328 Whites (37.4 %) 57,939 Blacks (56.6 %) 3,976 Hispanic and Latino (3.9 %) 550 American Indian (0.5 %) 464 Asian Indian (0.5 %). With 252 for all other races making up a combined (0.2 %).

The city of Flint is home to over 24,000 families with 4,635 who have an income less than \$10,000 per year, 1,785 with incomes of \$10,000 to \$14,999 and 3,745 with incomes from \$15,000 to \$24,999.



All of the racial groups and income levels are present in each of Flint’s nine wards. *State of Emergency* was performed before residents across this spectrum. It should be noted that these shows were attended by a large contingency of international students, including students from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, China, Korea and Japan.

The ages for those in attendance ranged from age 5 to 87; with the majority of the crowds being an exceedingly diverse group. These included local and state officials, business leaders, educators, students and community members.

Each live show had an average of 200 to 300 people in attendance. However the audience the show was able to reach was much broader due to the live streaming of the show. On the evening of 2/23, the performance was live-streamed via the #NEWPLAY TV project, an initiative of www.howlround.com. This means that anyone with an internet connection could log into the newplay TV site and watch the performance. Viewers were able tweet questions or comments for the post-show dialogue.

This event was organized by Arts of Citizenship and the U-M Detroit School of Urban Studies, with co-sponsorship from the Urban and Regional Planning Program, the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Ford School, the Residential College, and the Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS). Other notables who live-streamed *State of Emergency* for viewing audiences were The Washtenaw County Democratic Party and the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation, who hosted a live-streamed webinar with Co-founders Jones and Morton about the project, as part of their 2013 Webinar

Series. Below is a partial list of those who hosted audiences for the live-streaming of State of Emergency.

Live Stream Sites

U-M Rackham School Ampitheatre

MSU EDA Center for Regional Economic Innovation

U-M Arts of Citizenship

U-M Detroit School of Urban Studies

U-M Urban and Regional Planning Program

U-M Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Ford School

U-M Department of Afro-American and African Studies

Washtenaw County Democratic Party

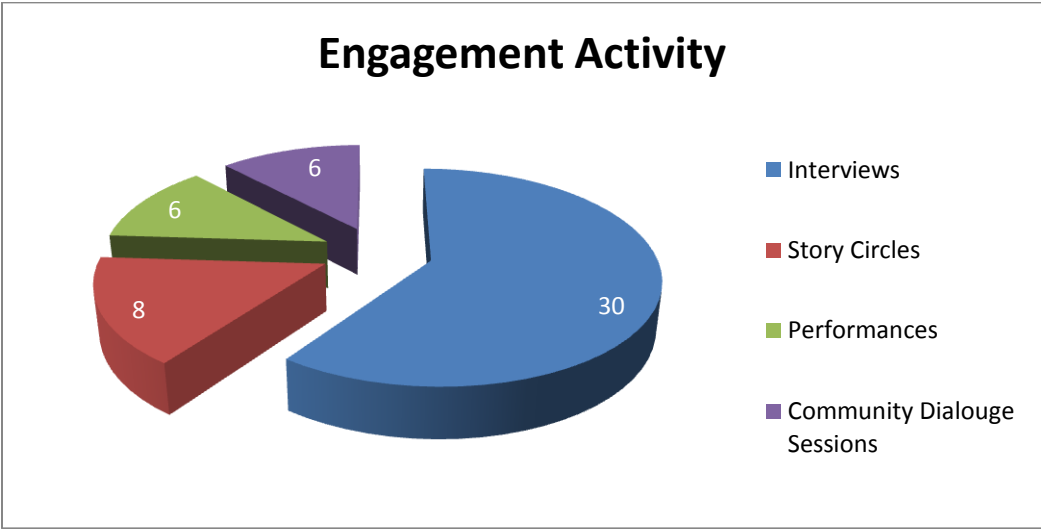
U-M Taubman College

New Play TV HowlRound

UM-Flint Department of Theatre and Dance

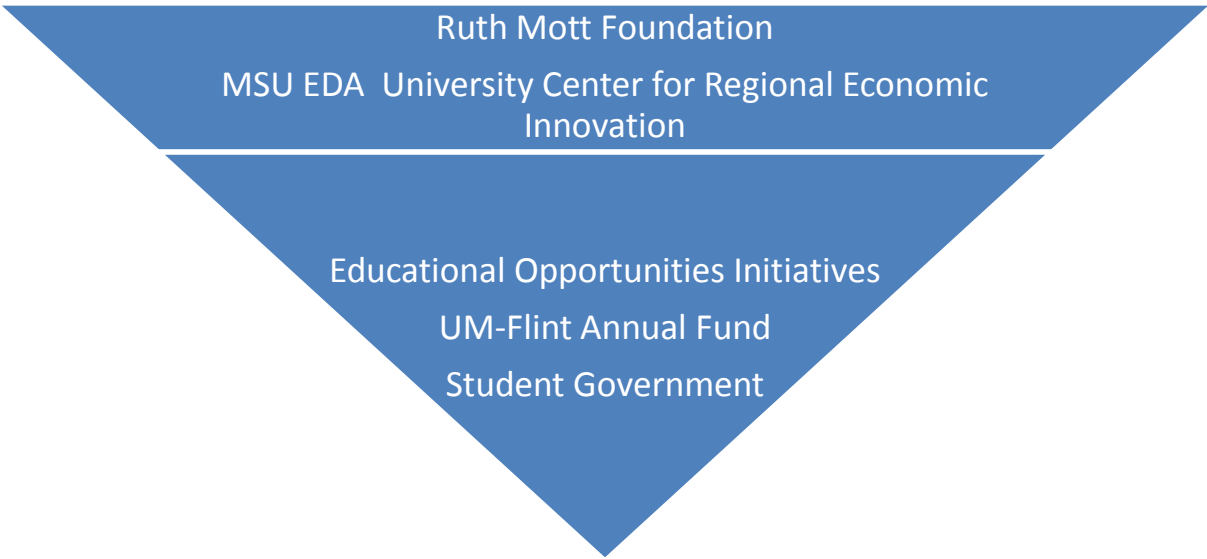
There were a total of six live performances each followed by a moderated community dialogues, eight story circles of which five were directed by student ensemble members, over thirty face to face interviews and several follow-up interviews during our process.

Community and Civic Engagement



The State of Emergency project allowed us to fully engage and collaborate with members of our community including, government officials, business leaders, academics and students. Our collaborating partners and funders include. Funders for the project were the Ruth Mott Foundation, MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation, UM-Flint Annual Fund, UM-Flint Educational Opportunities Initiatives and the UM-Flint Student Government.

Project Funders



Other supporting partners who provided in-kind facilities, services and materials are the Greater Flint Arts Council, UM-Flint Outreach Innovation Incubator, UM-Flint Department of Theatre and Dance, Beecher Community Schools, Flint Community Players, Masonic Temple, Flint Local 432, MCC Hispanic Community and Technology Center, University of Michigan Ann Arbor Arts of Citizenship, U-M Detroit School of Urban Studies, U-M Ann Arbor Rackham School of Graduate

Studies, Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Ford School, the Residential College, and the Department of Afro-American and African Studies.

News and Media Coverage

B.

The poster features a purple header with the Michigan State University logo and the text "MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY University Outreach and Engagement". Below this, it reads "The MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation presents our 2013 WEBINAR SERIES". The main content is on a teal background, featuring two black and white portraits of Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones. The text "State of Emergency" is prominently displayed, followed by "Theatrical Production", the names "Andrew Morton" and "Kendrick Jones", and "Playwrights/Community Artists". The date and time "Friday Feb 8, 2013 2:00 pm" are listed, along with the URL "connect.msu.edu/reiwebinarlive". A black box at the bottom left contains a bio for both speakers, and a yellow box at the bottom right contains a description of the REI Network and a disclaimer. A green box at the very bottom provides contact information: "Questions? Contact REI at (517) 353-9555".

State of Emergency
Theatrical Production
Andrew Morton
Kendrick Jones
Playwrights/Community Artists
Friday Feb 8, 2013
2:00 pm
connect.msu.edu/reiwebinarlive

Both Jones and Morton currently teach part-time at the University of Michigan Flint. In the past they collaborated on EMBERS: The Flint Fires Verbatim Theatre Project, as part of the Shop Floor Theatre Company. They are currently developing *State of Emergency*, another verbatim style production inspired by the controversial Michigan Emergency Manager Law, which is set to premiere in February 2013. For more information visit www.shopfloortheatre.com

The REI Network develops and identifies innovative economic development tools, models, policies and practices in support of innovative economic development strategies with promise to yield high-growth entrepreneurship and job creation in distressed regions throughout Michigan. This webinar is supported in part pursuant to the receipt of financial assistance and support from the United States Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration. The statements, findings, conclusions and recommendations are solely those of the authors and publishers and do not necessarily reflect the views of any federal agency or Michigan State University.

Questions? Contact REI at (517) 353-9555

Event poster for the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation 2013 Webinar Series featuring Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones

B. 1

Regional Economic Innovation (REI) 2013 Webinar Series

State of Emergency

Theatrical Production

Friday, February 8, 2013

2:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<http://connect.msu.edu/reiwebinarlive>

About the Webinar

Our speakers, Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones, are founding members of the Shop Floor Theatre Company based in Flint, Michigan. Both Jones and Morton currently teach part time at the University of Michigan Flint. In the past they collaborated on EMBERS: The Flint Fires Verbatim Theatre Project, as part of the Shop Floor Theatre Company. They have recently formed a new ensemble-based theatre company that will create original, community based theatre that creatively responds to urgent issues facing the City of Flint and surrounding communities. The first official production of Shop Floor Theatre Company is State of Emergency, an original play inspired by the state takeover and appointment of an Emergency Financial Manager to the City of Flint in November 2011. State of Emergency has been created in the same verbatim theatre style as EMBERS, where the script is made up of actual recorded interviews that have been edited into a desired structure. Members of the Shop Floor ensemble have interviewed various residents of the City of Flint and members of the Emergency Financial Managers team. Through this production Jones and Morton have attempted to create a piece that responds to the pressing issue of emergency managers in their community.

About REI

In the fall of 2011, the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development, with support from the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration established the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) to support innovative economic development strategies that may yield high-growth entrepreneurship, job creation and economic innovation in distressed regions.

For more information about the Michigan State University EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation visit the website at <http://www.reicenter.org> If you wish to receive more information about upcoming REI webinars, co-learning plans or how to network with other REI members, join REI at <http://www.reicenter.org/networks.shtml>

Registration No registration is required.

More information

If you have difficulty connecting, please call the Library Help Desk at 1-800-500-1554 or 5-2345 (MSU campus) and indicate you are having trouble connecting to the Adobe Connect meeting space at connect.msu.edu/reiwebinarlive

Please contact Jennifer Bruen if you have questions or concerns prior to or during the webinar

***** 734-837-4001**

arts of citizenship

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

[State of Emergency: Community-Theatre Performance in Flint](#)

Posted by [Elizabeth Werbe](#) on Feb 11, 2013 in [Blog](#) | [No Comments](#)



Andrew Morton, 2011 Arts of Citizenship grantee, recently teamed-up with Kendrick Jones to form a theatre company called Shop Floor Theatre Company: www.shopfloorthatre.com. Their new documentary, *State of Emergency*, is inspired by MI PA 4 (the Emergency Manager Law) and explores how its implementation and subsequent repeal has impacted the city of Flint. This production will engage audience and community members in a civic dialogue about the legislation, the current state of politics in Michigan, and what it means to be an engaged citizen.

Performances will take place in Flint later this month and the first couple weekends of March: 2/22, 2/23, 3/2, and 3/8. On the evening of 2/23, the performance will be live-streamed via the #NEWPLAY TV project, an initiative of www.howlound.com. This means that anyone with an internet connection can log into the newplay TV site and watch the performance. Viewers can tweet questions or comments for the post-show dialogue.

This event has been organized by Arts of Citizenship and the U-M Detroit School of Urban Studies, with co-sponsorship from the Urban and Regional Planning Program, the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Ford School, the Residential College, and the Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS).

STATE OF EMERGENCY

A Shop Floor Theatre Company Production

In late 2011, under Michigan Public Act 4, the State of Michigan appointed an Emergency Manager to the City of Flint. In 2012, citizens across the state voted to repeal the law.

Based on interviews and found material, *State of Emergency* tells the story of this controversial law and asks: is this what Democracy looks like?

Fri. February 22, 2013, 1:30pm
Beecher High School Randall Coates Auditorium
1020 W. Goldwater Road Flint, MI (FREE PERFORMANCE)

Sat. February 23, 2013, 7pm
UM-Flint Theatre
303 East Kearsley Street, Flint MI

Sun. March 3, 2013, 3pm
Flint Community Players
2462 S. Balkonger Hwy, Flint Twp, MI

Sat. March 9, 2013, 7pm
Masonic Temple
755 S. Saginaw Street, Flint, MI

Sat. March 2, 2013, 7pm
Flint Community Players
2462 S. Balkonger Hwy, Flint Twp, MI

Fri. March 8, 2013, 7pm
Masonic Temple
755 S. Saginaw Street, Flint, MI



Supported by

The Ruth Mott Foundation

The Michigan State University EDA University Center
for Regional Economic Innovation Program

The University of Michigan-Flint Annual Fund

The University of Michigan-Flint Educational
Opportunities Initiatives

The University of Michigan-Flint Student Government

The University Outreach Innovation Incubator

The Greater Flint Arts Council

More Information

Tickets to all performances are free, but advanced booking is strongly advised.

To reserve tickets, please call (810) 424-5453 or email info@shopfloorthatre.com For further information, visit www.shopfloorthatre.com



Andrew Morton in a recent rehearsal of "State of Emergency."

Encore LIVE! - Discussing a 'State of Emergency' with Andrew Morton



Posted: Feb. 21, 2013 at 7:53 p.m.

A new, Flint-based ensemble theater company is preparing to bring a new production exploring the impact of Michigan's controversial Public Act 4 (the Emergency Manager law) to the stage. Shop Floor Theatre Company aims to create original and transformative theater with and for people of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds. Shop Floor uses verbatim theater and other community-centered techniques to create work that represents diverse voices and opinions, encourages civic dialogue and engagement, and promotes social and political awareness.

Since last fall, members of Shop Floor Theatre Company have been conducting interviews and collecting material to create "State of Emergency," and host Barton Bund talks with Andrew Morton about his theater's innovative new project inspired by Governor Snyder's appointment of an emergency manager in the city of Flint. This documentary or verbatim-style production runs now through March 9.

Encore LIVE! - it's like radio, but over the internet! A production of EncoreMichigan.com. Produced for EncoreMichigan.com by Barton Bund and Tony Caselli. Theme music by the World Famous Love Machine.

B. 4

Special Screening of State of Emergency @ Rackham Amphitheater (4th Floor)

Saturday, February 23, 2013

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Rackham Ampitheatre
915 E. Washington
Ann Arbor, MI 48109**

Special screening of State of Emergency, a new documentary play inspired by Michigan's controversial Emergency Manager Law. On Saturday, February 23 at 7:00 pm, we will live-stream the performance (taking place in Flint) in Rackham's 4th floor amphitheatre. Viewers can tweet questions and comments for the post-show dialogue.



WHAT: A live-streaming of State of Emergency
WHEN: Saturday, February 23 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm
WHERE: 4th floor Amphitheater, Rackham Graduate School
COST: Free!

This verbatim theater-style production draws its script from found material and interviews with public officials and residents of the City of Flint, where an emergency manager was appointed in 2011. It is the first play presented by Shop Floor Theatre Company, which Kendrick Jones and former Arts of Citizenship fellow Andrew Morton co-founded. The co-founders explain, "The aim of the project is to encourage the community to engage in a larger dialogue about the various issues that led to the appointment of an Emergency Manager and explore multiple perspectives on this controversial issue." Please join us for this vital conversation.

This event has been organized by Arts of Citizenship and the U-M Detroit School of Urban Studies, with co-sponsorship from the Urban and Regional Planning Program, the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the Ford School, the Residential College, and the Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS).

Who Wants to Be Detroit's Emergency Manager? Featured

Written by **Minehaha Forman**

Tuesday, 19 February 2013 08:49



Today's the day. Today, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder is expected to receive a comprehensive report on Detroit's finances to determine whether he should appoint an emergency manager to take over the city's finances or not.

Snyder has said it won't take him long after reviewing the report to make a decision about Detroit's future. Earlier this month Snyder told reporters he wasn't indecisive:

"It will probably take a week or two for me to make a full analysis of the report, and then decisions will be made. My reputation is not one to be sitting on things rather than making decisions."

But the hard part may be finding someone willing to take on the tall order of reigning in Detroit's finances—a \$300 million-plus short-term deficit and a long terms debt of more than \$12 Billion. On top of everything, this is a city that takes great issue with state-based initiatives in city government.

If Detroit Mayor Dave Bing is right about having the second hardest job in that nation, then one can only imagine the post of Detroit's emergency manager is right up there with the hardest of them. Talk about being hated.

Many people rumoured to be on Rick Snyder's short list have declined any interest in the post.

But one of those rumoured EM possibilities is George Jackson, head of the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. [According to](#) The Detroit News: "Jackson is the only named person who hasn't denied he is in consideration. A spokesman for Jackson declined to comment and referred the issue to Snyder's office".

A state-appointed review team has been combing through Detroit's snarled finances since December. While Detroit, as the state's largest city, would be the biggest municipality to fall under state receivership, it would not be the first.

The cities of Pontiac, Highland Park, Benton Harbor and Flint have all undergone the controversial state measure of involving locally elected officials being stripped of many or their powers so a state-selected leader can take over.

The issue has been so controversial that it has inspired Flint playwrights to create an entire production on the topic.

State of Emergency, a play opening this Friday in Flint, uses verbatim theatre that is a technique that uses real quotes from interviews and found materials, to make up a theatrical production outlining what life under state management is like for cities like Flint.

The play could also soon apply to Detroit. One of the play's creators, Andrew Morton of Shop Floor Theatre Company, says the struggle for power between local officials and state appointed receivers is one that makes for a great drama.

[Morton told](#) Mlive-Flint:

"A very specific example is the announcement of (the emergency manager) on the night of the election of 2011. To me, that's a dramatic event," Morton said. Shakespearean plots, it's all about who's in power, or power shifting from one group to another, or one groups trying to wrangle power back."

For Detroiters who don't want to drive all the way to Flint will be able to watch it online streaming live [HERE](#) on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 7 pm.

Local political annalists have agreed in their predictions that Detroit will go the way of Flint, Pontiac, and other cash strapped Michigan cities.

New Flint-based Theater Company to explore Michigan's emergency manager law



Posted: Feb. 17, 2013 at 5:10 p.m.

FLINT – A new, Flint-based ensemble theater company is preparing to bring a new production exploring the impact of Michigan's controversial Public Act 4 (the emergency manager law) to the stage. Since last fall, members of Shop Floor Theatre Company have been conducting interviews and collecting material to create "State of Emergency," an original play inspired by the appointment of an emergency manager to the City of Flint in 2011.

Shop Floor Theatre Company aims to create original and transformative theater with and for people of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds. Shop Floor uses verbatim theater and other community-centered techniques to create work that represents diverse voices and opinions, encourages civic dialogue and engagement, and promotes social and political awareness.

"State of Emergency" has been created in part using verbatim theater, where a script is made up of recorded interviews and found material and edited into a desired structure. Shop Floor Theatre Company co-founders Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones say, "The aim of the project is to encourage the community to engage in a larger dialogue about the various issues that led to the appointment of an emergency manager, explore multiple perspectives on this controversial issue, but most importantly ask what role each of us can play in the future of Flint."

Performances will take place in Flint at the end of February and beginning of March. All performances will include a community dialogue immediately following each performance. The Feb. 23 performance will also be live-streamed via the #NEWPLAY TV project at <http://www.livestream.com/newplay>.

The project is funded by the Ruth Mott Foundation & the MSU Regional Economic Innovation Center.

Performance dates and locations are as follows:

- Friday, Feb. 22 - 1:30 p.m., Beecher High School Randall Coates Auditorium (1020 W. Coldwater Road Flint, MI 48505)
- Saturday, Feb. 23 - 7 p.m., UM-Flint Theatre (303 East Kearsley Street, Flint MI, 48502)
- Saturday, March 2 - 7 p.m. & Sunday, March 3 – 3 p.m., Flint Community Players (2462 South Ballenger Highway, Flint Township, MI 48507)
- Friday, March 8 - 7 p.m. & Saturday, March 9 - 7 p.m., The Masonic Temple, (755 South Saginaw Street, Flint, MI 48502)

All performances of "State of Emergency" are free of charge, however we strongly advise advanced booking as some locations have limited seating.

To reserve tickets, please e-mail your name, contact info, number of tickets required, and performance location/time to info@shopfloortheatre.com or call 810-424-5453 and leave a voicemail with the same information.

For more information on the "State of Emergency" project or Shop Floor Theatre Company, please visit www.shopfloortheatre.com.

About #NEWPLAY TV

#NEWPLAY TV is a peer-produced knowledge commons stewarded by HowlRound.com / Center for the Theater Commons. The channel is at www.newplaytv.info and is an international, shared-resource for live events and performances relevant to the new works' theater field. Its mode of production is open-access and open source, and its mission is to break geographic isolation, promote resource sharing, and to develop our knowledge commons collectively. Follow and use hashtag #newplay on Twitter to participate in a community of peers revolutionizing the flow of information and knowledge in our field.

Dramatic social commentary

Arts of Citizenship former fellow creates play to explore impact of emergency manager law; live-stream Feb. 23 at Rackham

February, 2013

By Elizabeth Werbe

A special screening of “State of Emergency,” a new documentary play inspired by Michigan’s controversial Emergency Manager Law, will be “live streamed” 7 p.m. Saturday, February 23 in Rackham’s 4th floor amphitheater. The performance will take place in Flint. Viewers can tweet questions and comments for the post-show dialogue. The screening is free and open to the public

This is the first production presented by Shop Floor Theatre Company, founded by Kendrick Jones and former Arts of Citizenship fellow Andrew Morton. The verbatim theater-style production draws its script from found material and interviews with public officials and residents of the City of Flint, where an emergency manager was appointed in 2011.

“The aim of the project is to encourage the community to engage in a larger dialogue about the various issues that led to the appointment of an Emergency Manager and explore multiple perspectives on this controversial issue,” said Morton.

The event is organized by Arts of Citizenship and the U-M Detroit School of Urban Studies with co-sponsorship from the Urban and Regional Planning Program, Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy at the Ford School, and the Residential College.

Since last fall, members of Shop Floor Theatre Company have been conducting interviews and collecting material to create “State of Emergency.” The company’s aim is to create original and transformative theatre with and for people of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds. The intended impact, said Morton, is to present diverse voices and opinions, and encourage civic dialogue and political awareness.

For more information, please visit: www.shopfloortheatre.com, artsofcitizenship.umich.edu, <http://www.umich.edu/~detsch/>

Elizabeth Werbe is associate director of Arts of Citizenship at the University of Michigan.

B. 8

Performance dates set for 'State of Emergency,' play based on emergency manager law



By Scott Atkinson | satkins1@mlive.comThe Flint Journal
on January 31, 2013 at 9:15 AM, updated February 01, 2013 at 12:44 PM



Andrew Morton, 30, in silhouette, exchanges ideas with other members of the Shop Floor Theatre Co. downtown while working on the first draft of play based upon the emergency manager law in Flint. The group hopes to answer questions the community has and raise more awareness to a local issue.

FLINT, MI--The new, Flint-based Shop Floor Theatre Company is preparing to unveil their first project--a play based on Michigan's controversial Public Act 4, otherwise known as the emergency manager law.

Since last fall, members of Shop Floor Theatre Company have conducted interviews and collecting material to create "State of Emergency," an original play inspired by the appointment of an emergency financial manager to the Flint in 2011.

"State of Emergency" was created in part using "verbatim theatre," where a script is made up of recorded interviews and found material and edited into a play. Shop Floor Theatre Company co-founders Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones said in a prepared statement, "the aim of the project is to encourage the community to engage in a larger dialogue about the various issues that led to the appointment of an Emergency Manager, explore multiple perspectives on this controversial issue, but most importantly ask what role each of us can play in the future of Flint."

Performances will take place in Flint at the end of February and beginning of March. All performances will include a community dialogue immediately following each performance.

Performance dates and locations are as follows:

- Friday Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m. at Beecher High School in the Randall Coates Auditorium, located at 1020 West Coldwater Road in Flint.

- Friday March 8 at 7 p.m. and Saturday March 9 at 7 p.m. at The Masonic Temple, located at 755 South Saginaw Street in downtown Flint.

- Saturday Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the University of Michigan-Flint Theatre, located at 303 East Kearsley Street, Flint MI, 48502)

- Saturday March 2 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday March 3 at 3 p.m. at Flint Community Players, located at 2462 South Ballenger Highway in Flint Township.

All performances of "State of Emergency" are free; however Kendrick and Morton said they strongly advise booking seats in advance as some locations have limited seating.

To reserve tickets, email your name, contact info, number of tickets required, and the time and location of the performance info@shopfloortheatre.com or call 810-424 5453 and leave a voicemail with the same information.

For more information on the State of Emergency Project or Shop Floor Theatre Company, check out their website: www.shopfloortheatre.com

Live on #NEWPLAY TV: Shop Floor Theatre Company's "State of Emergency" (#FlintSOE)—Sat., Feb. 23

FEBRUARY 19, 2013 | BY [HowlRound](#)

[Shop Floor Theatre Company](#) of Flint, Michigan presents:

State of Emergency

Livestreaming on the opensource [#NEWPLAY TV channel](#) on Saturday, February 23 at 4pm PST / 6pm CST / 7pm EST from the University of Michigan-Flint.

In late 2011, under Michigan Public Act 4, the State of Michigan appointed an Emergency Manager to the City of Flint. In 2012, citizens across the state voted to repeal the law.

Based on interviews and found material, *State of Emergency* tells the story of this controversial law and asks, is this what Democracy looks like?

A post-show dialogue will take place immediately following the performance. You can join the conversation on Twitter by tweeting questions or comments to [@ShopFloorFlint](#) and using the hashtag [#FlintSOE](#).

Several people have already started to plan Watch Parties for this livestreamed event in their home communities. Go to this [Meetup site](#) to post your own watch party or to RSVP to an existing party. To find out more about Watch Parties, check out this listing for A Host of People's [party](#).

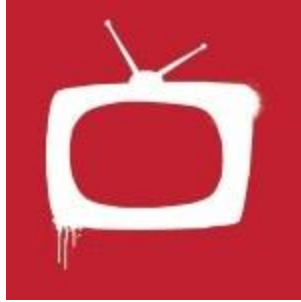
State of Emergency is generously funded by the Ruth Mott Foundation and the MSU Regional Economic Innovation Center.

Written by: Jessica Back, Elizabeth Brooks, Nic Custer, Kenneth Indish, & Andrew Morton.

Directed by: Andrew Morton

About Shop Floor Theatre Company:

[Shop Floor Theatre Company](#) aims to create original and transformative theater with and for people of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds. Based in Flint, Michigan Shop Floor uses verbatim theater and other community centered techniques to create work that represents diverse voices and opinions, encourages civic dialogue and engagement, and promotes social and political awareness.



#NEWPLAY TV is a peer-produced knowledge commons stewarded by HowlRound: a Center for the Theater Commons. The channel is at newplaytv.info and is an international, shared-resource for live events and performances relevant to the new works' theater field. Its mode of production is open-access and open source and its mission is to break geographic isolation, promote resource sharing, and to develop our knowledge commons collectively. Follow and use hashtag [#newplay](https://twitter.com/newplay) on Twitter to participate in a community of peers revolutionizing the flow of information and knowledge in our field. We're fans of the Creative Commons License CC-BY. Co-produce with us by contacting [@NewPlayTV](https://twitter.com/NewPlayTV) on Twitter, emailing [newplaytv](mailto:newplaytv@howlround.com) (at) howlround.com or by calling Vijay Mathew at +(1) 917.686.3185. Host a watch party by using [this tool](#) and let us know about it.

Flint Area Theatres

Comments on the Vehicle City's rich and varied theatre scene

Shop Floor Theatre's "State of Emergency" Issues A Call To Action

Posted on [February 24, 2013](#) by [kkirby2010](#)

Reviewed by Kathleen Kirby

"All political power is inherent in the people" proclaimed the white board behind center stage Friday as Flint's newest production company, Shop Floor Theatre, launched what its director Andrew Morton has dubbed "verbatim theatre". Titled *State of Emergency*, it's not so easy to put a label on what it is that Morton is up to with this newest effort, but we can safely say it is provocative.

We first saw this style of performance back in 2011 when Morton's *Embers*, subtitled *The Flint Fires Verbatim Theatre Project*, wove the reactions of a variety of Flint residents, firemen, and city officials into a sort of cathartic theatre moment presented on actual burned sites.

This time the subject is Michigan Public Act 4 which appointed an Emergency Manager to the city of Flint late in 2011. A year later, in 2012, citizens across Michigan voted to repeal this controversial law that was seen by many to be a denial of democracy and the usurping of the rights of the people. The writing team responsible for this script includes Jessica Back, Beth Brooks, Nic Custer and Kenneth Indish.

"Is government a business or a protectorate of the people?" Based on interviews, media coverage, and other found material, the play enacts the story of this event by, in Morton's words, "honoring the words of community members, quoting their opinions, sharing their information and ultimately, telling their stories".

Ten performers play multiple parts in order to portray the host of real people and their views. They change costume pieces to delineate a change in character, but they never attempt to

“become” the person they are portraying. Rather, the effort seems to be on the words and the message, but assuredly not on the visual character. It’s worth mentioning this troupe by name so here they are: Cathleen Arnold, Jordan Climie, Nick Hale, Elsa Harchick, Gary Jones, Jon Kelley, Tomoko Miller, Jenna Noelle, Brittany Reed and Hank Reed.

At play’s end it was acknowledged that this project was almost overwhelming in it’s scope and size as the whole issue of Right To Work was touched upon. Enacting a glimpse at the Lansing protest march complete with masked police in riot gear the question was asked, “Is this what Democracy looks like?”

Each performance of *State of Emergency* hosts a talkback portion after and Friday night’s audience was ready to respond. “Manipulation exudes control and fear rules the day in the end.” “We should not and cannot expect the city and the state to take care of us.” “No one gets involved until the “boom” is close.”

Clearly a call to action, the play will nonetheless leave viewers with a perspective they may not have had before. It is reality theatre at its most intriguing because it’s about Flint and Michigan and ultimately about we, the people.

State of Emergency will perform the next two weekends at various venues including Flint Community Players Performance Hall and the Masonic Temple in Flint.

All performances of *State of Emergency* are free of charge, however advanced booking is strongly advised as some locations have limited seating. To reserve tickets, please email your name, contact info, number of tickets required, & performance location/time to info@shopfloortheatre.com or call 1 (810) 424 5453 and leave a voicemail with the same information.

For those not able to get to Flint, there is a live stream of Friday night’s performance recorded by the #NewPlayTV channel and available online at http://www.livestream.com/newplay/video?clipId=pla_6e1d20bd-65f9-4643-8883-2f3849049f3c&utm_source=library&utm_medium=ui-thumb

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

Incubator Business to Open Free Play This Month About Emergency Manager Law

by Nic Custer



Actresses doing a read through of the script in the Innovation Incubator, 207 NBC

Shop Floor Theatre Company, an ensemble-based theatre company and Innovation Incubator tenant, is preparing to open their initial production, *State of Emergency*, at the end of February.

The writing team recorded interviews to craft an original script about the effects of Public Act 4, the Emergency Manager law, on the city of Flint. The verbatim play focuses on the one-year period between PA 4's enactment in the city (November 2011) and its repeal during the recent elections (November 2012). Writers interviewed street-level activists, residents, a councilperson, professors, Mayor Dayne Walling, former-Emergency Manager Michael Brown, a state of Michigan treasury department official and others.

Director and Co-Founder Andrew Morton said Public Act 4 is an urgent issue affecting Flint and the state but he doesn't feel there have been enough of the necessary dialogues necessary to understand this issue.

Morton said that while the work is directly relevant to the Flint community, it also contributes to a larger, national conversation, especially relating to verbatim and ensemble-based techniques. He mentioned attending a recent Network of Ensemble Theatres conference in New Orleans where he overheard Michael Rohd, a nationally renowned playwright, casually speaking to someone over dinner about the interesting work being done in Flint.

Early on in the process, Shop Floor held unrecorded story circle sessions with community members to gauge their level of knowledge and identify voices that the script writing team wanted to interview in depth. One of these sessions was held in the Innovation Incubator co-

working space. University Outreach at UM-Flint coordinates the Innovation Incubator located at the Northbank Center. Learn more about the Incubator at www.umflint.edu/outreach/innovate.htm



Full cast goes through the script together in the Innovation Incubator, 207 NBC

Kendrick Jones, Producer and Co-Founder said that their individual office, located in Northbank 238 next to the co-working space, provides a lot of positives. It is centrally located downtown, so it offers access to the university campus, governmental buildings and the business community. He also appreciated the aesthetics of the Northbank Center. Jones said that the historic and appealing exterior of the building gives other businesses a positive sense of the theatre company because of their professional setting.

The main incubator co-working space has also been utilized by the company for conferences, large meetings, auditions, and for important business meetings with vendors and other theater companies, according to Jones.

“It’s great having a space to work from and have meetings in. It helps us feel that this is a serious business or has the potential to be, not just a hobby done in our spare time,” Morton commented.

Shop Floor is growing and both Morton and Jones said that the space and infrastructure (internet, tables, chairs, use of conference rooms), which University Outreach provides through the Incubator space, is vital to the group’s success. Jones mentioned that several other theatre projects are in the works and the company is already booked through 2015.

Rehearsals began in January, shortly after the completion of the script. The ten-member cast, made up of students, alumni and community members, has used the Vault space in the Northbank Center basement for evening rehearsals.

Shop Floor will present a mid-afternoon preview performance for students and residents at Beecher Community School’s ninth grade academy Randall Coates Auditorium, 1020 W. Coldwater Rd., February 22.

The show officially opens February 23 with a 7 p.m. performance at the UM-Flint Theatre, 303 E. Kearsley St. Shop Floor will have two shows at Flint Community Players, 2462 S. Ballenger Hwy., (March 2, 7 p.m. and March 3, 3 p.m.) and two final performances downtown at the Masonic Temple, 755 S. Saginaw St. (March 8 and March 9, both at 7 p.m.)

All performances are free and followed by talk back sessions and refreshments.

The February 23 performance will be simulcast online through Newplay TV, an online livestreaming channel, specifically created to show new theatre works. Audiences from all over the world have the ability to watch the production live. There is at least one viewing party scheduled to occur in Saginaw and Morton said there may be another set up in Detroit. Check out www.livestream.com/newplay for details.

Jones and Morton gave a live “webinar” tele-conference about the production on February 8 in a joint venture with Michigan State University EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation. These lectures generally focus on new ideas being used in Michigan, such as urban food systems, microenterprise development and promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Shop Floor will present at the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation annual summit this fall. They will show video of the performance, give a final report and discuss their process. MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation also funded a portion of the production.

This June, Shop Floor has been invited to present at the 2013 Americans for the Arts annual conference in Pittsburgh. Members of the production team will speak about the play and ways to evaluate its larger social impacts.

Jones said he wanted to particularly thank the University Outreach staff: Jonathan Jarosz, Barb Urlaub, Sherry Hayden, Sara McDonnell and Lindsay Stoddard. He said without their patience and support, Shop Floor wouldn't be where it is today.

Most of Shop Floor's production costs were paid for by an initial Ruth Mott Foundation grant. The foundation approached Morton and Jones to create a verbatim theatre company after the success of last year's production, *Embers: the Flint Fires Verbatim Theatre Project*, which through similar techniques examined the glut of Flint arsons in 2010.

Visit www.shopfloorthatre.com for more information.

B. 12

The Art of the Emergency Manager

Posted on [January 18, 2013](#) by [admin](#)

Michigan's Emergency Manager law has brought controversy and protest to the state since it was enacted, repealed and re-instated over the previous 24 months...and now it's sparked something else — Art.

Specifically, theatrical art. A Flint-based theater group, [The Shop Floor Theatre Company](#), is putting together a production of verbatim theater on the local experience with an Emergency Manager. A verbatim production is a form of documentary in which actors engage in a civic dialogue using the actual words of individuals speaking on the topic. This performance draws from interviews with Flint residents, local leaders and Emergency Manager experts from around the state.

Shop Floor Theatre Company was founded by Andrew Morton and Kendrick Jones, after their success with their U of M-Flint production — Embers: The Flint Fires Verbatim Theatre Project, based on a string of arson fires that plagued the city. Their mission is to focus on producing community-based original works that encourage social engagement.



Their upcoming production, [State of Emergency](#), is funded by a \$40,850 grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation. See the newly released trailer [here](#).

Democracy Tree is honored to have been able to lend words to this innovative project. It hits all my buttons: civic discourse, democratic process and cultural arts.

C.

Promotion Photo



Photo by Brandon Blinkenberg

D.

Rehearsal Photos



These photos were taken at the Northbank Center 432 North Saginaw Street, Flint, Michigan in the old bank vault rehearsal space. Photos by Brandon Blinkenberg

D.2



Photos by Brandon Blinkenberg



These shots were taken at Beecher Community School's ninth grade academy Randall Coates Auditorium, 1020 W. Coldwater Rd. in Flint Michigan. Photos by Nic Custer



Photos by Nic Custer (Randall Coates)

E.

Story Circle Photos



A story circle session at the University of Michigan – Flint campus. Photos by Brandon Blinkenberg

E.1



Andrew Morton leads a story circle discussions at Flint Local 432 and the University of Michigan-Flint. Photos by Brandon Blinkenberg

F.

Community Outreach Photos



Kendrick Jones engages in a classroom discussion with Beecher 9th Grade Academy Students.
Photos by Brandon Blinkenberg

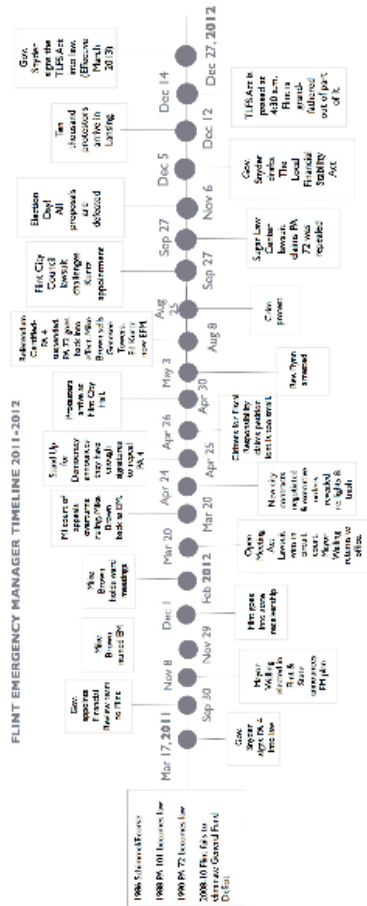
F.1



Morton interacts with Beecher students. Photos by Brandon Blinkenberg

G.

Program



STATE OF EMERGENCY

A Shop Floor Theatre Company Production

Made possible with generous funding from:

The Ruth Mott Foundation
 The MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation
 The University of Michigan-Flint Annual Fund
 The University of Michigan-Flint Educational Opportunities Initiatives
 The University of Michigan-Flint Student Government

H.

Survey



STATE OF EMERGENCY

Pre-Show Survey

1. Are you a resident of the City of Flint? Yes No

2. If no, where do you live?

3. How did you hear about the State of Emergency Project?

4. How would you rank your current level of political engagement? (*i.e., voting, researching ballot issues, attending city council meetings, campaigning for candidate/campaign/issue, running for office, etc.*)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(1 being not at all, 10 being very engaged)

5. How would you rank your knowledge/awareness of Emergency Manager Legislation in Michigan?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(1 being not at all aware, 10 being very aware)

6. What does Democracy mean to you?

7. What constitutes an Emergency?
I.



STATE OF EMERGENCY
Post-Show Survey

8. Please take a moment to reflect and think back to the performance you just saw. What feelings did you have? Circle any words that apply below (and feel free to add more):

Inspired	Confused	Angry	Numb
	Helpless	Validated	Frustrated

9. Was there a specific image or line from the performance that resonated with you?

10. Do you have any new insights or reflections based on Emergency Manager Legislation based on the performance?

Yes No

If so, what were they?

11. If you were a character or “voice” in the play, what would you have done or said? Who would you have brought into the play, or would you have stayed away?

12. Was there any “voice” missing from the play?

13. Is there anything that you might do related to what you saw or heard in the play? Please check all that apply:

- I will think about what I saw and heard about Emergency Manager Legislation.
- I might talk to friends or family about Emergency Manager Legislation.
- I might seek out new information on Emergency Manager Legislation.
- I might become more politically engaged (i.e., attend a city forum, city council meeting, contact your city or state representative, attend a protest, run for office, etc.)
- I have another idea not on this list: _____
- I’m not sure yet.
- I doubt I will do anything based on what I saw or heard.

14. Would you be willing to speak to us again (either via phone, email, or in person) about what our project?

Yes No

If so, please provide your contact information below:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

J.



STATE OF EMERGENCY

Post-Show Dialogue Instructions

Dear Marcus, Mona, and Natasha,

Thanks again for agreeing to facilitate one of the post-show dialogue sessions for our upcoming *State of Emergency* Project!

Just to confirm, here's a recap of the performance dates, venues, and who is facilitating at each:

Saturday February 23rd 7pm – UM-Flint Theatre

Mona Younis

Saturday March 2nd 7pm – Flint Community Players

Marcus Paroske

Sunday March 3rd 3pm – Flint Community Players

Natasha Thomas-Jackson

Friday March 8th 7pm – Flint Masonic Temple

Mona Younis

Saturday March 9th 7pm – Flint Masonic Temple

Natasha Thomas-Jackson

I'm assuming you're all familiar with the venues with perhaps the exception of the Flint Community Players, which is located at 2462 South Ballenger Hwy (next to the Unitarian Universalist Church).

The play itself is likely to run at around 1 hour 40 mins (including a brief intermission) and we plan to go straight into the dialogue sessions with the audience members immediately following the end of the play. We like to think of the play and the dialogue as one whole experience, not two separate events.

Prior to the show, we'll have some cast members walking around the audience distributing a brief pre-show survey that we'll be using to demonstrate how we put together the play, and as an evaluation tool. I've attached a copy of that survey. You'll notice the final two questions ask, "What does Democracy mean to you?" and "What constitutes an Emergency?" We plan to gather these surveys during the pre-show, and we'll use a selection of written responses along with lines from the text of the play in a short prologue moment.

We like to think these two questions touch on the key themes of this piece, so feel free to refer back to them during the post-show dialogues.

I mentioned we're also planning on distributing a post-show survey to a handful of audience members once the performance and dialogue have wrapped up. I've also attached a copy of that survey. This one will probably give you a better idea of the types of questions we'd like you to ask during the dialogue sessions.

Kendrick and I have been working with the folks at Animating Democracy (an initiative of Americans for the Arts) to think carefully about how we evaluate this work, and will be presenting this project at the Americans for the Arts National Convention in Pittsburgh in June. A lot of what we've included in the post-show survey aims to document people's emotional response to the work, and learn if they may be likely to take any specific action as a result of seeing the play. I should add that these surveys aren't the only tools we're using, but it seems like there's a natural link between the information we'd like to gather and the post-show dialogues so again, feel free to use any of the questions on this survey to get a conversation going.

If it's helpful, below is a list of the types of questions we'd like to have in the dialogue. You'll see that some have come directly from the surveys. Do feel free to add more if you wish!

- Think back to the performance you just witnessed. Choose one word to best describe how you feel after watching it.
- Was there a specific image or line from the performance that resonated with you?
- Did the performance give you any new insights on Emergency Manager Legislation in Michigan?

- Some voices in the play suggest that the word “Emergency” is not perhaps an accurate word to describe the financial state of school districts and cities in Michigan. What do we think?
- The play begins, and ends by asking questions about Democracy. What words would we use to describe the current state of Democracy in our state and nation?
- Did the performance give you any new insights on “What Democracy Looks Like?”
- Has the performance motivated you to take action in anyway? If so, what might that be? (Examples might include researching EM legislation, attending more city council meetings, community forums, contacting a city or state representative)
- As you leave the performance today, what words, thoughts, feelings, or images are you taking with you?

I certainly don’t want you to feel that this is a script that we’d like you to stick to. We simply want to give you plenty of material to draw from. I realize you’re all experienced facilitators and each audience group is going to be different, so we may have to adapt these questions if needed.

A few more specific things: We may or may not have microphones available at every venue, however some they will not be needed. If not, we do have several megaphones that we use in the play ☺ We’re going to use these at the begin of the performance and get audience members to speak into them, so we might try this at the end too.

We will have one or two members of our company on hand to take some notes during the dialogue, and with the exception of the live-streamed performance, we won’t be recording them.

To help with the note taking, we do ask you ask anybody who speaks to first clearly state their name and where they’re from.

In terms of an approximate length for the dialogues, I think around 30 minutes would be great, 45 minutes-excellent! Anymore than that and we might be keeping people for a little too long. Ideally I’d like the entire evening (performance and dialogue) to run at around 2 hours (give or take 10 minutes).

K.

Related Internet Links

<http://artsofcitizenship.umich.edu/2013/02/state-of-emergency-community-theatre-performance-in-flint/>

<http://www.fordschool.umich.edu/events/calendar/1523/>

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/calendar/events/2225/>

<http://www.montage.umich.edu/2013/02/dramatic-social-commentary/>

http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/flint/index.ssf/2013/01/trailer_released_for_emergency.html

<http://vimeo.com/57343708>

http://www.pressbox.co.uk/detailed/Arts/New_Flint-based_Theatre_Company_to_explore_Michigan_s_Emergency_Manager_law_on_stage.1096617.html

http://taubmancollege.umich.edu/news_and_events/events/?event=0000c0a8de11000007d58e000000013cece0673b1533267d

<http://www.reicenter.org/upload/Andrew%20Morton%20and%20Kendrick%20Jones%202-8-2013%20Flyer.pdf>

http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/flint/index.ssf/2013/01/performance_dates_set_for_stat.html

<http://newplaymap.org/#/play/state-of-emergency?event=66898>

http://www.pridesource.com/calendar_item.html?item=12579

<http://blogs.umflint.edu/outreach/2013/02/12/stateofemergency/>

<http://convention.artsusa.org/schedule/session/description/one-about-using-theater-civic-intervention-divisive-issues>

<http://www.umflint.edu/outreach/>

<http://fenton.going.com/events/state-of-emergency>

<http://www.michronicleonline.com/index.php/component/k2/item/275-who-wants-to-be-detroits-emergency-manager>

<http://www.micampuscompact.org/CMDocs/MCC/Resources/Compact/MCC%20Compact%20Magazine%20082612%20Final.pdf>

<http://www.reicenter.org/>

https://www.google.com/#q=shop+floor+theatre+company+state+of+emergency&hl=en&ei=TI0tUY_BH4j3rAGFmYHYBA&start=110&sa=N&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.&fp=301a00712d047ef6&biw=1600&bih=805

<https://www.google.com/search?q=shop+floor+theatre+company+state+of+emergency&hl=en&sa=N&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&ei=b3wtUcrDMJKBqQGarYCoCA&ved=0CEUQsAQ4Cg&biw=1600&bih=805>

<http://www.washtenawdems.org/calendar>

<http://encoremichigan.com/calendar.html?seq=12581>

<http://www.iampragency.com/i-am-pr-theatre-tunde-olaniran-to-score-state-of-emergency-flint-mi-verbatim-play-huge-production-in-flint-mi/>

<http://fenton.patch.com/events/state-of-emergency-73b0a709>

<http://entertainment24.eu/news,url,new-flint-based-theatre-company-to-explore-michigans-emergency-manager-law-on-stage>

<http://royaloak.patch.com/users/shop-floor-theatre-company>

<http://www.eastvillagemagazine.org/en/news-releases3/18361-people-asked-to-help-create-script-about-emergency-manager>

<http://www.wopular.com/flint-emergency-state-financial-review-teams-report-then-and-now-0>

<http://www.reicenter.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShopFloorTheatre>

<https://twitter.com/ShopFloorFlint>

<http://www.encoremichigan.com/article.html?article=7078>