



TOWNE STREET THEATRE
LA's Premiere African-American Theatre Company™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Towne Street Theatre Announces Winning Selections for its Fifth *In Response* Theatre Festival

HOLLYWOOD, CA — [Towne Street Theatre](#) (TST) proudly announces the winning selections for its highly anticipated *In Response* Theatre Festival, returning for its 5th year this October at the prestigious Stella Adler Academy of Acting and Theatre in Hollywood. This year's festival's theme is RISE UP!, continuing its tradition of offering playwrights, directors, actors and other performing artists a dynamic platform to respond to today's urgent events, social issues, and personal experiences through compelling plays and other performing arts mediums.

"As we face abuses to human rights, personal freedoms and threats to our democracy during these unprecedented times, TST's *In Response* festival is more timely and more important than ever before," said Veronica McClelland, TST CEO. "*In Response* takes the news of our times straight from our streets and our screens and builds awareness and activism so that people feel empowered to make change. That is the power of the performing arts in 2025."

Winning Selections — *In Response* Festival 2025:

We Are the People

A song by: John Tierney

A Gentle Mensch

A short play by: Anita Yellin Simons

It takes courage to speak truth to power. And sometimes, you win.

A New America

A monologue by: Reginald Edmund

A reflection on what is happening in the world today.

For the Love of D'Artagnan

A short play by: Roland Rusinek

A speculative fiction piece with queer themes and suppression of the press in a post-Trumpian America.

Frederick Douglass – Unexpected, 1884

A monologue by: Stephen Blackburn

A reflection on the historical stresses that the leaders of the civil rights and women's rights movements faced early in their fights.

Hold the Line

Spoken Word by: Sharon Langley

A poem that speaks about the history of resistance in the face of voter suppression and intimidation.

Kingdom of Heaven

A short play by: Rich Rubin

A priest and his immigrant parishioner confront the new American reality.

Nothings

Spoken word by: E. Talley II

A call to action and a request to remember that what once seemed only a dream became true, and without question, can live again.

Rumblings

A short play by: Kimba Henderson

Tackles the question of how we treat traitors to our country.

The Right to Life

A short play by: Shanelle Darlene

A story about the game that is America—one of violence, oppression and struggles – sugar-coated with plastic and TV show lights.

Blood Bank

A short film by: S. Pearl Sharp

A poem that speaks to how women's labor, local resources and bodies are used without permission or compensation for the profit of corporations, governments, and criminals.

The Plea

A short film by: RCB

A reflection to make us aware of a simple truth – we are all one.

Stand!

A short film by: Marlene McCurtis

Written by incarcerated men at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Lancaster, CA through the Theatre Workers Project. Formerly incarcerated men perform in this story that examines the personal struggle to stand up for justice and hope – even in the most challenging situations.

Look What You Made Me Do

A short film by: Destiny Nelson

A music video that follows a young black woman who is killed by police, and then rises from the dead to seek revenge.

A display of fine artwork

by: Laura Brody, Susan Lee and Cathy Weiss

About Towne Street Theatre:

Founded in 1993, Towne Street Theatre operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting fresh and dynamic theatre-making in Los Angeles. Through original and responsive storytelling, they support emerging artists and create a vibrant space for communal dialogue. For more information about Towne Street Theatre and upcoming productions, visit www.townestreetla.org, or follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Festival Details:

- **Dates:** October 4-November 2, 2025
- **Location:** Stella Adler Academy of Acting & Theatre, 6773 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, CA 90028
- **Tickets & Info:** Ticket information will be available soon.

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