

GTC Dramatic Dialogues

Michael Agnew, Director

3725 38th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

612.724.4514
info@gtcdrama.com
www.gtcdrama.com

Monday, October 31, 2022

To the Drake Community,

On August 25th, a troupe from my company, GTC Dramatic Dialogues, performed two interactive theatrical programs on diversity and inclusion on the Drake University campus. The programs were intended to stimulate critical thinking and begin peer-to-peer discussion about the difficult topics of racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia. By allowing students to freely express their views and experiences while being respectfully challenged by our actors and other students, our aim is to plant seeds that can engender better understanding and deeper conversations.

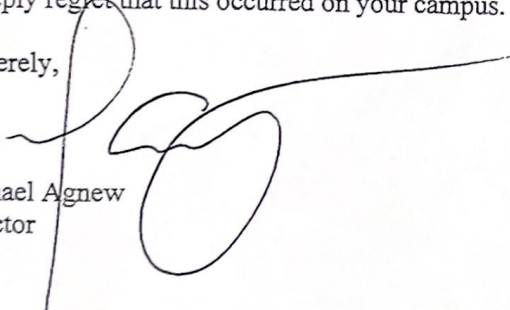
Our performances at Drake did not live up to those goals. They did not meet the standards that I have set for the company. Established protocols of facilitation were not observed. This led to a sense of chaos on the floor that allowed an excessively heated exchange and left problematic statements unaddressed. This is not how our shows are intended to go. This is not how they normally go.

Intent does not always equal impact. The impact of our performances at Drake was the opposite of our intent. Far from engendering dialogue, they instead created animosity and mistrust between students and between students and the administrators who are there to support them. These impacts fell most seriously on those students whose voices we most desire to uplift.

I deeply regret that this occurred on your campus.

Sincerely,

Michael Agnew
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Agnew', written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.