



Motus Theater Presents a Live *and Virtual*

UNDOCUAMERICA

TOUR

touring the nation to spark courageous empathy



Motus Theater uses the power of autobiographical storytelling to increase awareness and shift attitudes, and often policies, as it relates to current issues. We work with undocumented leaders to help them tell powerful stories and put them center stage. We also pair them up with allied leaders who read their story as a means to stand in their shoes. Through the transformative experience of reading and holding someone else's story, each performance will create the space necessary for listeners to learn from people who have profoundly different experiences.



"The problem with our immigration policy is that we don't think of it in terms of flesh and blood."

—**Nicholas Kristof, NY Times journalist** ([link](#))

As the old proverb states, "An enemy is someone whose story you haven't heard".

Audience members and listeners are not merely educated about the threats undocumented immigrants face, they fall in love with them and become inspired by their courage. Our undocumented storytellers haunt listeners with the experiences of real people caught up in the immigration system and, consequently, our listeners are moved to take action to deter the escalating attacks.

What does this look like at your live or virtual event?

Motus Monologue Presentation

Our undocumented monologists tell their own stories.

Shoobox Story Presentation

Invite respected leaders from your community to stand in the shoes of our undocumented monologists by reading aloud their story. This is powerful because the readers agree to refrain from judgment and to see the world through another's eyes.

Motus Monologue + Shoobox Story Presentation

We can even work with you to present a powerful combination of the Motus Monologues and Shoobox Stories approaches!

Music + Q&A

Whenever possible we will transition each monologue with a live or virtual musical response that helps the stories settle deeper into the hearts and bodies of the audience for greater impact. At the end of the entire performance we also often host a live or virtual Q&A where the audience is able to ask the monologue performers and readers any questions to further their understanding of the immigrant experience.

"We have to tell our stories. That is how we change laws and policies."

—**Leslie Herod, Colorado State House Representative**



Tools we can share with your audience

We want to ensure audiences leave inspired AND have the tools to take action!

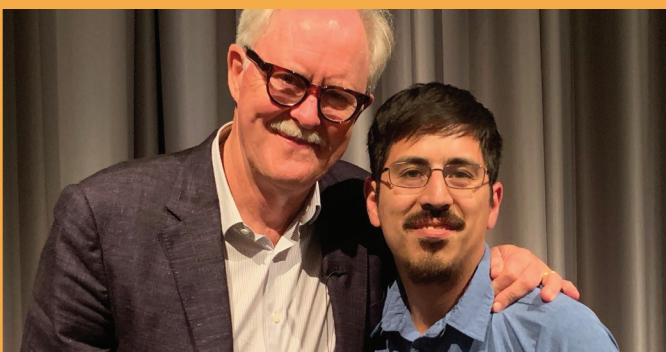
1. Share a link to our performance
2. Share both versions of our [UndocuAmerica Series Podcasts](#):

Motus Monologues: UndocuAmerica Series Podcast

The undocumented monologists tell their own artfully crafted stories followed by a musical response from a nationally recognized musician such as [Yo-Yo Ma](#) or Arturo O'Farrill.

Shoebbox Stories: UndocuAmerica Series Podcast

A prominent American reads the story of our undocumented monologists, to fully experience their journey. National figures such as actor [John Lithgow](#), Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, and feminist Gloria Steinem are examples of some of the outstanding featured readers.



"I think it's a wonderful thing to partner you and me and to make my reading of your story a companion piece to yours. It's my way of walking your shoes."

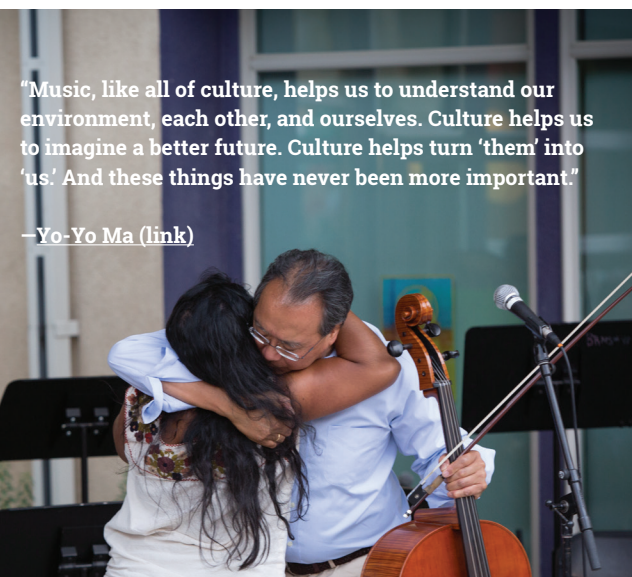
—[John Lithgow, American actor](#) (link)



3. Host your own [Shoebbox Stories readings](#)

This introduces the Shoebbox Stories model of stepping into another's shoes to small groups, classrooms, book clubs, and the like. The stories are available virtually or in a literal shoebox with framed photos of the undocumented people whose stories they are reading.

The readers are able to practice courageous empathy and civic hospitality with their own community, over a shared meal, in the intimacy of their living room; or virtually bring people together while practicing social distancing.



"Music, like all of culture, helps us to understand our environment, each other, and ourselves. Culture helps us to imagine a better future. Culture helps turn 'them' into 'us.' And these things have never been more important."

—[Yo-Yo Ma](#) (link)

"Reading their stories was moving for all of us, and powerful for the audience... Barriers were broken down, relationships formed, and mutual respect established. Relationship building...using this format, could probably solve a lot of various issues in many communities across this country!"

—Joe Pelle, Boulder County Sheriff on ["Law Enforcement Leaders Read DREAMer Stories"](#) (link)



Motus Theater
motustheater.org

Shoebbox Stories: UndocuAmerica Series
shoebboxstories.org

Motus Monologues: UndocuAmerica Series
motustheater.org/motus-monologues-podcast

About Shoebbox Stories Host Your Own
shoebboxstories.org/host-your-own-reading

**MOTUS
THEATER**

Moving Stories that
that Move Us Forward



CONTACT US

Tania Chairez, National Outreach & Education Director
tania@motustheater.org // 602-561-1369
motustheater.org