

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (continued)

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Special thanks to Lindsay Bryant and Eric King of Community Advisory Board, Nia Community Development Corporation of Greater Richmond, for being our guiding lights throughout this process and providing inspiration throughout the semester.

Thanks to Willnette Cunningham and the wonderful women of VCU's Women in the Know and VCU's Community Advisory Board.

Thanks to Phil Crosby for so generously opening up this beautiful space for our performance, and Lucian Restivo for his invaluable help with tech support.

Thanks as well to our panelists for their willingness to share their expertise and engage in difficult conversations.

VOICES FROM RICHMOND'S HIDDEN EPIDEMIC

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 24
12 PM



A docudrama based on oral histories of people living with HIV/AIDS, health care providers, activists, and allies, created and performed by the Community Advisory Board, Nia Community Development Corporation and students of the University of Richmond.

**ROBERT B. MOSS THEATRE
RICHMOND TRIANGLE
PLAYERS**

**1700 ALTAMONT AVE
RICHMOND, VA 23230**

OUR COLLABORATION

“Why am I still alive? The answer was to tell this story.” -- Dr. Eric King

Richmond, Virginia has one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the country, and today, HIV disproportionately affects communities of color. Our docudrama, *Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic*, honors those who have been affected and calls attention to the current crisis. It is our goal to open new conversations about HIV/AIDS by sharing the stories of those living with HIV today.

This semester, University of Richmond students in the class “HIV in Richmond: A Documentary Theater Project,” taught by professors Patricia Herrera and Laura Browder, worked closely with members of VCU’s Women in the Know, VCU’s Community Advisory Board, and Nia Incorporated of Greater Richmond.

Our goal was to understand more about the epidemic in its current phase and to learn how to be HIV advocates. Our class, under the direction of book artist Jen Thomas, collaborated with group members to create a series of cascading books about the impact of HIV on their lives and legacies. These hanging manuscripts will take center stage in the Valentine Museum exhibition *Voices from Richmond's Hidden Epidemic*, opening January 23rd. Photographic portraits by Michael Simon, and excerpts from oral history interviews conducted by Browder and Herrera, will complete the exhibition.

The docudrama we are performing under the directorial guidance of José Joaquín García is another product of this collaboration. Our play weaves together oral histories, statistics, images, and ritual to tell the stories of people living with HIV/AIDS today. It has been our great privilege to work with group members this semester, and we are grateful for all that we have learned from them.

ACTS/ROUNDS

Act I: Abol, the first round

Act II: Tona, the second round

Act III: Baraka, the third round and final blessing

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Thanks to Michael Simon for the incredible portraits that are such an integral part of this production.