



Now You're Talking

The University of Missouri's Interactive Theatre Troupe (ITT) fosters constructive conversations about complex topics.

As the name suggests, interactive theatre allows audience members to participate in a theatrical performance. Mizzou ITT uses this give-and-take between viewers and actors to foster conversations about challenging issues. The troupe has tackled complex subjects including racism, sexism, gender identity, religious differences, breast cancer, body image, health communication and women faculty in STEM.

The troupe performs in settings ranging from classrooms to professional conferences to support groups and more. Audiences watch a short scene that depicts an unsolved problem. A facilitator then leads discussion with actors who remain in character. Viewers may be invited to join the scene and try to improve its outcome.

Established in 2003, the ITT program is now at the heart of MU's Center for Applied Theatre and Drama Research, which utilizes theatre techniques to enhance teaching and learning. Over the years, Mizzou ITT has received funding from leading agencies including the Ford Foundation "Difficult Dialogues" program, NSF ADVANCE and the Mid-Missouri Komen Foundation. Currently the center serves as consultant for a multi-campus NSF project that produces ITT with online avatars to foster diversity in geoscience.

Mizzou ITT is directed by Curators Distinguished Professor of Theatre Suzanne Burgoyne.