The LINKING LAW & THE ARTS Program

- LINKING LAW AND THE ARTS is a highly successful collaboration between the University of Maryland School of Law and the arts community. Through a series of joint undertakings with theaters, galleries, and other venues, Maryland has offered scholarly programs that relate to theatrical performances and other artistic offerings. Whether panel discussions, lectures, or symposia, these programs achieve the dual objectives of addressing challenging legal and social concerns through artistic performances and enriching the entire community's appreciation of theater with the benefit of social context.

- This innovative program promotes the arts and taps into the School of Law’s diverse scholarly expertise to help further its mission of public service to the local community and the nation. Through this program, the “fourth wall” dissolves as artistic undertakings receive real-world context and current legal matters take life in dramatic form.

- With its support of THE RESPONSE, and its earlier work on a staged reading of court transcript excerpts celebrating the 50th anniversary of the landmark desegregation case Brown v. Board of Education, LINKING LAW & THE ARTS has engaged in the creative collaboration of original works of art that help further understanding of the law and society.

Selected Events (2003-2008)

- These Shining Lives (2008), a pre-theater discussion about environmental health in conjunction with a world premiere performance of a new play at CENTERSTAGE.
- What Documentary Films Teach Us about the Criminal Justice System (2008), a conference about documentary film's power to shape public perceptions about the criminal justice system, particularly incarceration.
- Twelve Angry Men (2007), a pre-theater panel discussion entitled “The Jury as Truth Finder: Fact or Fiction?”
- Doubt (2007), a pre-theater discussion about the nature of doubt from both legal and psychological perspectives.
- Human Rights/Culture (2007), an original theatrical production dramatizing the state of human rights in America and around the world through 17 vignettes utilizing sound, text, and movement.
- The CSI Effect on Criminal Prosecutions: Truth or Fiction (2006), a symposium on the influence of popular television on the expectations of jurors and litigants for high-tech forensic evidence at trial.
- Law and Film Symposium (2006), a conference on the influence of film on politics, the legal system, and legal education.
- Scopes Trial Tour (2006), a panel discussion at University of Maryland College Park of the famous “monkey” trial in collaboration with the Constitution Project and in conjunction with L.A. Theater Works docudrama, The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial.
- Whose Role Is It Anyway? (2005), a panel discussion in collaboration with the Hippodrome Foundation focusing on the role of race, gender, ethnicity, and disability in theatrical casting.
- The Lion King (2005) a pre-theater discussion of environmental law and policy including the Endangered Species Act.
- Permanent Collection (2005), a roundtable discussion about the Thomas Gibbons play based on litigation concerning the Barnes Collection in Philadelphia, involving art, estates and trusts, and race issues.
- The Exonerated (2003), a post-performance discussion with the cast, faculty and area high schools about the legal system and the death penalty.
- Jill Lion Sculpture (2003), exhibit of six soapstone sculptures depicting the 2001 murder of a Baltimore woman and her teenage daughter to supplement a program about domestic violence. The sculptures now reside at the School of Law.
- Hairspray (2003), a pre-theater discussion about the social and legal implications of race relations in Baltimore in the 60’s.

For more information, including educational materials, programs, and video clips of past events, visit http://www.law.umaryland.edu/arts.

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