

Time to saddle up for “Festival UnBound”

The Bethlehem Gadfly Arts, the, Touchstone Theater September 30, 2019

(11th in a series of posts on Touchstone Theatre)

Send the little kids to the grandparents, board the dog, put an away message on your email, put on your thinkin’ caps and dancin’ shoes —

’tis time to get your tickets for the fee’d events and mark your calendars for the free ones

“What kind of community do you really want?”

“How do we form a new identity?”

Jennifer Sheehan, “Festival UnBound: Bringing Bethlehem together through the arts.” September 30, 2019.

“Where are we and where do we want to go?” said J.P. Jordan, Touchstone’s artistic director. “That’s one of the most important ideas. And the art is the manifestation of that thinking.”

“We would ask the same question over and over,” said Bill George, the festival’s director and Touchstone’s co-founder. “What kind of community do you really want?”

“It’s easy to say, ‘I’m going to be inclusive,’ but they are actually doing it,” said Bethlehem City Councilwoman Olga Negron said. “They really reached out to every corner. Just making this all happen and making it inclusive for real is a big accomplishment.”

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“We all live in Bethlehem, and we all understand what Bethlehem Steel means,” Reynolds said at a recent council meeting. “And I think all of us, when we look across the country and we see the kind of decline of community identities, whether or not it’s religion or a huge industry like Bethlehem Steel, there is just a wide, wide possibility there. How do we form a new identity? And this is obviously done through art, through theater and conversation. But it’s also about the issues that we see all the time: Why do people disagree, how does that have to do with identity and how do you find ways to disagree with somebody?”

“People focus so much on the end result of these things,” Jordan said. “And that’s important but, and there are so many cliché quotes on this, the journey is the thing. The impact of building the art itself puts people in direct connect with the idea of community.”

Festival UnBound

Ten days of original theatre, dance, music, art and conversation designed to celebrate and imagine our future together!

October 4-13