

“There’s not really a place where people of color who look like me gather in this town”

The Bethlehem Gadfly Arts, the, Fun Stuff, Touchstone Theater October 19, 2019

 56th in a series of posts on Touchstone Theatre 

After that discussion of “place” in Bethlehem, Sharon Brown guided the denizens of Godfrey Daniels after the *Festival UnBound*’s “Poets, Troubadours, and Troublemakers” performance to the topic of “race” with this startling statement:

“There’s not really a place where people of color who look like me gather in this town.”

<https://youtu.be/mNI8M1aF-vs>

- “It’s important to have a presence.”
- “If you don’t have a presence, you can’t make a change, and nobody is going to invite you to the table to have a conversation.”
- I’m continuing to think about as we look into the future how do we engage and make our world a truly more inclusive community.”
- “How do I and others and other allies help to get folks to develop a critical consciousness, so that when you are doing a program you are making sure that you are including The Other and whoever that Other is at the table in the performance.”
- “We have to do better.”

- “After being here all these years, it is still a majority community governed by majority people, and all the Arts are still majority dominated and don’t engage other voices to be at the table.”
- “It’s as though there’s this invisibility that occurs.”
- “Where are the people who look like me?”
- “Since we have this conversation, remember that there is a level of invisibility that exists throughout the entire Lehigh Valley but especially in Bethlehem no matter what side you are on.”

The audience went quiet for a bit, as if in thought.

Festival UnBound

Closed but never forgotten