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Fearless: RATCo

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Fearless: RATCo

Abstract

If you haven't noticed yet, we've had some really spectacular visitors from the south with us on Gettysburg's campus the last few days! The Random Acts of Theater Company (RATCo) is a group that emerged from the Freedom Foundation in Denver, Colorado a few years ago. Their initiative involved using theater as a means for self-expression and communication, but RATCo spread because it was so successful and ultimately reached Selma, Alabama. Selma, although a major site for the Civil Rights movement, and also the site for the last battle of the civil war, has changed very little since the 1960s. The students involved with RATCo attend segregated schools— yes, still in 2013! The town is still largely segregated. In a town where there is still a lot of hate, RATCo gives people a place to love and to learn from one another. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Surge, Surge Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Center for Public Service, RATCo, Random Acts of Theater, self-expression, Selma

Disciplines

Acting | African American Studies | Dance | Dramatic Literature, Criticism and Theory | Performance Studies | Race and Ethnicity | Social Psychology and Interaction

Comments

Surge is a student blog at [Gettysburg College](https://cupola.gettysburg.edu) where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at surgegettysburg.wordpress.com Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that –isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

SURGE

[VERB] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

FEARLESS: RATCO

March 28, 2013

Fearless Friday celebrates individuals, groups, or events that promote change or challenge injustice.



If you haven't noticed yet, we've had some really **spectacular visitors** from the south with us on Gettysburg's campus the last few days! The **Random Acts of Theater Company (RATCo)** is a group that emerged from the Freedom Foundation in Denver, Colorado a few years ago. Their initiative involved using theater as a means for self-expression and communication, but RATCo spread because it was so successful and ultimately reached Selma, Alabama. Selma, although a major site for the **Civil Rights movement**, and also the site for the last battle of the civil war, has changed very little since the 1960s. The students involved with RATCo **attend segregated schools— yes, still in 2013!** The town is still largely segregated. In a town where there is still a lot of hate, RATCo gives people **a place to love** and to learn from one another.

But RATCo is more than a group or an organization— **it's a movement!** Primarily high school and middle school students collaborate with their adult coordinators in song, dance, theater, and spoken word to express themselves and to support each other. They work together in the **national fight for justice** and serve as an inspiration to everyone who meets them! RATCo will be sharing their incredibly inspirational

stories in a performance tonight, Friday, March 29th. **The performance will be at 7:00 in the CUB Ballroom.**
Come prepared to learn a lot, laugh a lot, become inspired and **rock the movement.**

And a shout out to **Karina Matlock** for creating the new Facebook page [Dear Gettysburg, #RealTalk](#), a space for students to talk about **serious issues** and find **solidarity**.

<http://surgegettysburg.wordpress.com/2013/03/28/fearless-ratco/>