Save the Dates for Cultural Conversations 2016!
The 2016 theme is
“For the Health of...”
Location: Downtown Theatre on Allen Street, 7:30 p.m., $3 per event
A collaboration between the School of Theatre and The College of Health and Human Development

Welcome to Cultural Conversations, the only new works festival of its kind in the country. Devoted to fostering and promoting new dance, visual arts, and theatre pieces based on issues of local and global diversity, Cultural Conversations offers a forum for professional, community, and student artists where social issues can “play out” on a stage. The past six seasons of this unique festival have brought hundreds of audience members together over five days to witness artistic debates on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, violence, and sexual orientation, and each year the theme of the festival changes to address a specific social issue. This year, Cultural Conversations 2016 will circle one of the most important conversations of the new century: Global Health. In a festival entitled For the Health of..., Cultural Conversations will offer a new way to talk about how the health of the Body, Spirit, Culture, and Nations come together to create the health of the Planet.

Monday, February 1st – For the Health of the Body: Body Language
"What if one story can change the way you look at the world? What if you had a chance to tell your story? What story would you choose? Be prepared to change the way you look at...everybody."

Tuesday, February 2nd – For the Health of the Mind

Wednesday, February 3rd – For the Health of the Spirit: The Venus
An evening of literature, theater, music and conversation focused on the connection between mental, physical and social well-being. Participants will experience a choreo-novel presentation and discussion panel of the Venus of Khala-Kanti: a tale of life-altering loss and mystical recovery. Tapping into the very soil of their home, the main characters construct spaces, both internal and external, where they and others can rejuvenate their bodies, minds, and spirits.

Thursday, February 4th – For the Health of the Nation: Cultural Conversations Ambassadors
Penn State students – you are invited to work with the Cultural Conversations team to plan and stage this year’s festival! It is an opportunity to work with national and international playwrights, musicians, and artists around the topic of health and diversity!

Friday, February 5th – For the Health of the Planet: Healthy Parks, Healthy People: From Local to Global
“Parks are a forum to promote spiritual, cultural, and environmental awareness. This presentation will include storytelling, visual art, and musical performance to communicate the role of parks in our lives from a local and global perspective.”

Saturday, February 6th – For the Health of the Family
I Dream a World... Wake Up Everybody! A day of music, dance, drumming, family, and culture. Performances by State College Area School District performing groups Roots of Life and The Centre County Down Syndrome Society’s For Good Performance Troupe.