



A Classical Education for the Modern World

September 11, 2020

Dear Latin Students and Parents,

The Washington Latin Theater Department, in deciding which play to mount for the fall, understood that it had to take as its mission the meeting of this extraordinary historical moment.

We are proud and excited to announce that our choice for 2020's Fall Play is Anna Deveare Smith's acclaimed drama, "Twilight: Los Angeles: 1992."

In this renowned work of "documentary theater," Smith uses the verbatim words of people who experienced the Los Angeles riots to expose and explore the devastating human impact of that event.

The play presents a series of monologues by those witnesses, and reflects not only the truth of their experiences thirty years ago, but our experience of personal isolation and collective social inquiry in this world-shaping year of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter.

From interviews with more than two hundred people, Smith chose the voices that best reflect the diversity and tension of a city in turmoil: among them a disabled Korean man, a white male Hollywood talent agent, a Panamanian immigrant mother, a Black teenage poet, a Mexican-American artist, Rodney King's aunt, truck driver Reginald Denny, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, former Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates, and several other witnesses, participants and victims.

A work that goes directly to the heart of the issues of race, police brutality and class, *Twilight* probes the language and lives of its subjects, offering stark insight into the complex and pressing social, economic and political issues that, in 1992, fueled flames that still burn today.

We feel strongly that this play will offer our students a unique opportunity to engage with the most pressing social issues of our time by way of artistic exploration. This is the right play for our moment and our community, and we want to strongly encourage Latin students and families to participate in what is sure to be a thrillingly rewarding experience.

AUDITIONS for *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992* are open to students from grades 8 through 12, and will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16th, from 10:00 am to 11:30, on Zoom.

Students interested in auditioning should email Mr. Birkenhead at: [pbirkenhead@latinpcs.org](mailto:pbirkenhead@latinpcs.org) to get scripts and schedule an appointment.

Thank you.