

Björklunden Seminars

"Vacation with a purpose"

SEPT. 22-27, 2024 AT BJÖRKLUNDEN



Astonish Us in the Morning: Artistic Collaborations in the 21st Century

Course Description

This course, which takes place concurrently with Lawrence's Door Kinetic Arts Festival (or DKAF), will examine daring artistic collaborations.

Every year, artists from across the country collaborate with one another to create projects in an immersive, one-week residency at Björklunden. Embedded within this evolving setting, Artistic Director Eric Simonson leads a seminar which examines topics ranging from the current state of the arts in America, to the future of artistic collaborations.

Astonish Us in the Morning invites students to take a fully immersive journey in observing and learning about the act of artistic creation. Nationally recognized artists participating in the festival — which in the past have included actor Rainn Wilson, playwright Lydia Diamond, composer Ricky Ian Gordon, and Dance companies Lucky Plush and The Seldoms — will serve as class guests, discussing and, when called on, demonstrating their talents.

This course includes a free guest pass to the arts festival, which includes cocktails, workshops and performances.

[Register Here>>](#)

Instructor



Eric Simonson ('82)

Simonson is a 1982 graduate of Lawrence University, where he majored in Theatre Arts. Today, he is an ensemble member of Steppenwolf Theatre Company, a position he maintains while working as a writer and director for film, television, theatre and opera.

Directing and writing credits in theatre include work at Manhattan Theatre Club, Primary Stages in NY, The Huntington Theatre and the Milwaukee Rep, among others. He directed "The Song of Jacob Zulu", which ran on Broadway and received six Tony nominations including Best Director. He is the author of published works "Bang the Drum Slowly" and "Work Song" (with Jeffrey Hatcher). Broadway writing credits include "Lombardi", "Magic/Bird", and "Bronx Bombers". Film and television work include "Studs Terkel: Listening to America" (Emmy nom.); "A Note of Triumph" (Oscar win); "On Tiptoe" (Oscar nom., Emmy nom). Simonson recently wrote the book for Milwaukee Rep's musical "Run Bambi Run". He has written and produced for TV shows "Man in the High Castle", "Homecoming" (WGA nom.) and "Swagger". His film "Killing Reagan" aired on NatGeo and was nominated for a National Critics Association Award.

Simonson founded The Door Kinetic Arts Festival in 2016.