

**All faculty and staff are invited to the
Loyola University Chicago Retiree Association
Third Thursday Presentation**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022
Zoom Discussion
3:00-4:00 pm**

Is the Pandemic Reshaping Chicago's Performing Arts?

**Ken-Matt Martin, Artistic Director of Victory Gardens Theatre
and
Kerri Reid, theater and dance critic for the *Chicago Reader***

Martin and Reid will engage in an active discussion with Zoom participants on the effects of the COVID pandemic on the content and structure of Chicago performing arts. Will some forms of theater change? Has the pandemic affected content? Have Chicago Theater organizations survived the empty theaters? Have acting careers been altered? Are there new opportunities for innovation on the horizon? Are their strengthened movements for better pay and equity for performers and staff?



Ken-Matt Martin is the Artistic Director of Victory Gardens Theatre, and was born in Little Rock, AR. He received theatrical training at Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Drake University (Musical Theater/Journalism), and Brown University/Trinity Rep where he received an MFA in Directing. Following a decade-long stint as a professional actor that included roles in plays and musicals at regional theaters, Martin transitioned to directing and producing full-time. Inspired by the Black Arts Movement, he co-founded the Pyramid Theatre Company in Des Moines, IA where he

was Executive Director until 2018. After that, Martin served as the Producing Director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival and Associate Producer at Goodman Theatre before joining Victory Gardens. He is the recipient of numerous theater awards for directing and producing. His life in the theater has led Martin to adopt the personal mission of using theater as a catalyst for social change.

Kerry Reid has been a critic and arts journalist for more than 25 years, including many years with the *Reader* and the *Chicago Tribune*. She has been the Reader's theatre and dance editor since June 2019. An alum of Columbia College Chicago Theatre Department, Reid has recently written that "going back to 'normal' is the last thing that theater and dance worlds need." Rather, the creativity and innovations in Chicago performing artists and organizations have shown during the pandemic suggests that bold leadership and more substantial funding is needed to further innovations as well as the fiscal health of the performing arts.



Please RSVP to Ale Fernandez: afernandez8@luc.edu [Are we using an RSVP this time?]

Join via Zoom: [insert url]