

### ***Us and Them* promos and coverage**

Headlines Theatre <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyIA1KXA-tA>

WestEnder (WE) <http://www.westender.com/articles/entry/stage-preview-us-and-them>

Megaphone newspaper <http://megaphonemagazine.com/magazine/326/staging-solutions-headlines-theatre-aims-to-bridge-the-gaps-between-us>

The Filipino TV station. Starts at 1:45 <http://ica2012.univie.ac.at/>

ArtThreat <http://artthreat.net/2011/10/us-and-them/>

### **Us and Them audience and media Quotes**

*"Us and Them* made me realize that despite the walls, despite our past, present, or future, we are all connected as humans and when more and more people realize this, more and more walls will start to come down. All the actors were equally exceptional but as a Filipina myself, I feel it is important to let Iris Paradela-Hunter know that her performance really moved me on a personal level and that in a small but important way she is a heroine to all Filipinos for making known our plight and struggle that too many of us share. Great production!"

Elaiza Datar, audience member

*"Us and Them* left me with a greater understanding of our current political and social landscape in Vancouver and Canada. "Us and Them" resonated with me and my own immigrant experience, and made me think of the boundaries others have erected to guard themselves."

Roselyn Tam, Vancouver Observer, Oct. 23, 2011

"...you had me soul-searching about my own attitudes and experiences from beginning to end. Congratulations on *Us and Them* and on 30 years of ground-breaking and relevant work."

Rae Ackerman, Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres

"I thought that the play was very emotional and is really reflective of how we perceive others around us without any knowledge of the others' thoughts or feelings. We (all of us) do not see others as human beings; how do we make the situation better with out exposing our own prejudices and perceptions?"

Larry Grant, Musqueam Elder, audience member

"The actors were amazing, and I really admired how David lead the audience through the process! It was truly inspirational, and reaffirmed my ambitions toward using this type of theatre with young people!"

Kim Sholinder, Audience member

*"Us and Them* was incredible. The use of image projection was fantastic and it really stirred up a lot of emotions in me. I found the characters all extremely easy to relate to even though I haven't shared all of their experiences. Emotionally, it translated beautifully."

Ashley Aron, audience member

"*Us and Them* is a play about Vancouver, and you may find yourself in this roller coaster of a story. Theatre really can be a tool for social change. Use it, live it, pass it on. *Us and Them* is a gift from Headlines to all of us. Thank you!" Molly Caron, audience member

"*Us and Them* is a truly inspiring play and the audience contributions afterwards very moving! David Diamond is an extraordinarily talented and dedicated facilitator."

Susan Swanson, audience member

"*Us and Them*" has stuck with me for days. It isn't just a play, it is an experience that has the power to shift your way of thinking.

Reallysurreal – an 'anonymous' quote on the Art threat blog:

<http://artthreat.net/2011/10/us-and-them/>

"I would recommend that everyone go see (*Us and Them*) because it really says a lot about how we interact with others, and society as a whole. We were told to focus on the little details that were catalysts for larger events in the play, and as we changed one, all the others changed as well. *Us and Them* – it will have you re-examining the entire way in which you see the world." Flavia Kajoba, ENGAGE: SFU Volunteer Services Blog

"The situations that arise (in *Us and Them*) make anyone with a sense of compassion and justice ache as they observe the narrative take on the subject of discrimination and how it creates struggles for those it perpetrates. The second half of the play opens up the room for dialogue in a style known as "forum theatre", originally conceived in Brazil to empower oppressed members of society, mostly Indigenous. Don't let the interactive component scare you away! Participation is voluntary and the content is so engaging in its fearless portrayal of stigmatization, something First Nations people know all too well, that even wallflowers might be surprised by a willingness to contribute or even step on stage!"

Chandra Melting Tallow, Siksika, Redwire Native Youth Media

"*Us and Them* blew me away!! The best of both theatre and political work - beautiful and sophisticated and provocative... I was struck by the sophistication of the characters, and the calibre of their acting, as well as the music, visuals, and choreography - altogether a remarkable, complex, and rich means to explore intersecting, pervasive, and yet ever-elusive issues."

Emily Beausoleil, audience member

"*Us and Them* was breathtaking, encouraging and empowering."

Justina Kausylaite, audience member

"*Us and Them* was a very moving, thought-provoking, powerful and entertaining experience."

Alison Beaumont, audience member

"I took my daughter and her boyfriend to *Us and Them* and must tell you what a fantastic experience it was. The interactive portion of the performance was perhaps the best part of a delightful evening. Good luck on your next work of art, I look forward to seeing and perhaps being an interactive audience member." Barry Robertson, audience member

"If you see only one play this year, may it be *Us and Them*. If we all saw it, we might just be a kinder, gentler people". Tamara Slobogean, Associate Producer, Citytv Vancouver

“Thank you again for bringing tickets for us to hand out (at Union Gospel Mission). I talked with a couple of our guests who really enjoyed the show. I know that Peter was actually given the opportunity to go to the BC Lions game on Saturday and then went to the play on Sunday. Today, when I asked him about his weekend, he talked as though not even the BC Lions game could compare to how much he enjoyed *Us and Them*.”

Conner Hildahl, Union Gospel Mission

“Thanks for the ticket (to Union Gospel Mission)! I found that the issues addressed, and the way that they expounded on the negativity between *“Us and Them”*, were very relevant. Though there is much negativity around these issues, the theatre exposed them in a very positive manner. I really enjoyed the fact that they included the audience, that it was an interactive play. It even allowed me the opportunity to get up on stage and provide my input! My friend’s couldn’t believe that I was up on stage.”

Kenny W., audience member

*“Us and Them* was excellent. The issues were very relevant, especially for this neighborhood. It touched on issues that make us feel lonely and depressed – these are things that people down here feel quite a bit.”

Brian B., audience member

*“Us and Them*. I’ve been thinking about this concept all day. I believe this play is a jumping-off point for a larger dialogue on the inner workings of man and our continued search for self-acceptance and love. If thinking is what you’re after, check out this production.” Anastasia Koutalianos, Immigrants Don’t go to Therapy, CJSF 90.1FM

“I found *Us and Them* moving, fascinating and enlightening. A terrific evening and much appreciated.”

Marcus Handeman, audience member

*“Us and Them* was very moving and powerful. I was impressed with the authentic acting of the cast and also by the interventions of audience members. Very powerful. The audience felt like a community, too. I always feel changed by contact with Headlines and Theatre for Living.”

Faune Johnson, audience member

“I watched *Us and Them* yesterday. When as a person I look at this, it calls for dialogue between 196 nations around the world. Nations who have their own beliefs and faiths through which people live their lives. The dialogue is so deep that there is no end to it, and in 45 minutes you have portrayed it all. *Us and Them* was not about Canada but the intensity of freedom that people can feel in Canada so people’s voices can be heard around the world. I Hope it will give insight to people about what is so important in this universe.”

Saeideh Nessar Ali, audience member

“Thank you for providing the opportunity for all of us concerned with issues of social justice and human rights to participate in *Us and Them*. The art and creativity of Headlines Theatre initiates and supports community dialogue for social change and human rights which reflects the praxis of Martin Luther King’s wisdom “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Best wishes for continued success.”

William Booth, Community Liaison Manager, Literacy Lives Project, Community Education Program, Simon Fraser University.

“The (*Us and Them*) experiment in emotional problem solving was mind-blowing!”  
 Karim Ratib, audience member

“There's something unique for me about the *Us and Them* production. Many of Headlines' shows explore an external manifestation of personal, societal and cultural disconnection - water privatization, homelessness, racism, violence, commercialization of education and the list goes on. All of that work has been timely and powerful.

What I felt last night was that I was witnessing and experiencing work that is a culmination of all that's come before - a distillation at some level of so many other issues which are symptoms of our dislocation and segregation from one another. The “Us” and the “Them”; the play felt like it was about everything at once, while being manifested in the most human and simplest of moments and relationships.

Thank you to all of you for your courage and generosity in bringing us with you on that journey.”  
 Kevin Millsip, audience and Board Member

“I can not think of any words, which properly could express how I feel about the play, *Us and Them* I saw yesterday. It was breathtaking and very familiar, because many situations shown in the play were quite universal. I even caught myself with tears in my eyes in a few moments. I enjoyed the play very much! *Us and Them* is encouraging and empowering. The latter may sound a bit weird, but I think people need to be reminded and encouraged continually to start behaving better and with more compassion in order to make some difference in the world. We start caring about only our business and routine too fast and then miss the opportunities to help others, which might be done in very simple ways and might have a much bigger impact on peoples' lives than we usually think (as we saw in the play and in the dialogue after). And that is exactly what you do, “Headlines Theatre”. You raise questions and dig deep, you remind what being a human is all about.”

Justina Kausylaite, audience member

### **Feedback about the live, interactive webcast**

“I am very glad I was able to watch the web cast of *Us and Them*, because even though I'm thousands of kilometers away I felt like I was there in the theatre. It is an absolutely wonderful format, and the webcast with the interactive chat room is an extremely good idea. Very powerful themes and story, and the ability to alter the scenes at the end, and then seeing what those small changes do to effect the story as a whole, and thus society as a whole, is eye opening to say the least. All of the people who came up on stage were incredible too, at first I was a bit skeptical about how that would work, but it is amazing how people put themselves out there for everyone to see, I was stunned. It is something that will always stay in my mind, and I look forward to the next production.”

Stephen Prevost, web cast viewer from Winnipeg, MB

“I watched the live broadcast of *Us and Them* tonight, and was just taken aback by the energy, the interaction, the clarity of the work, and the poignant lessons that came through. It's SO amazing to see the interventions because it affirms my belief that we all have a humanity within us. It reminds me that because of life experiences and what we do to

'create' racism, our humanity sometimes gets buried. I can't imagine how empowering it is for those offering interventions to also have a voice and show their humanity.

The work you are doing is very important and powerful - particularly to help us remember our humanity, to nurture it and channel it positively through all we are and do in life. When we can experience the process of channeling our humanity through art, we can come back full circle to ourselves. It helps us understand ourselves, and shows us creative ways to be able to apply those same learnings/values/humanity through our deeds and words. In that way all of life becomes an artistic endeavour through which we can direct our humanity. In even difficult moments, to be able to make art, especially with others, allows us to transform the negativity into something more positive.

The live broadcast was amazing. So clear. Audible. Shaw did a great job. And it was so so neat how it worked out so well with the live and on line interventions. Very cool!"

Hussein Janmohamed, web cast audience member

"I watched the webcast of *Us and Them* with a mix of nostalgia, disbelief and excitement. First of all, I have to say that it look terrific on my computer screen, well lit, etc. I then plugged it to my plasma TV and voilà! What a show! The music, wow!!! Very powerful. Amazing intro with the First Nations dance and then the overlap with the riots, etc. Really exciting. I couldn't believe I was watching a Headlines' webcast from Mexico!! At the beginning I had a fear the play was going to center too much on the immigrant story and so become the "us against them" but then the way the other stories interwove was truly lovely. Tanner's Morning scene... I almost cried, I think it was so brave and bold, so human. For me, the chaotic scenes projected on the screen, were a manifestation of the chaos inside: what's inside is recreated outside. A formidable metaphor, I felt. Congrats to everybody."

Dafne Blanco, past-Outreach Coordinator, webcast audience-member in Mexico

"I just watched the live webcast of *Us and Them*. I have seen every new work Headlines has produced for the last 6 years or so, and am reshaped by every experience. I wanted to write you this time to say how moved I was. Moved by the emotional and intellectual commitment it takes to do this work, to change as a person, to do that with others. To grow, in real time, inviting us to join you. To explain to us the terms and then have faith in us - to compose solutions and break down walls, to change lives, to do this work with you. I so appreciate the role of the actors and their reading the moments and deciding constantly how to respond and push the scene further ahead. I also truly appreciate David's meaning making, or rather, the questions he asks of us to make meanings of what's happening on stage as the play is re-written by audience members and actors. We are rehearsing for life. And life lived symbolically is life lived, life under our belts - we leave the theatre having become those solutions. My sincere thanks to you all for this vital gift."

Kirstie Lang, web cast audience member in Vancouver BC

"Thanks for the marvelous opportunity to be emotionally involved in what happened tonight with *Us & Them*....from all the way across the province in southeastern BC, the W. Kootenay village of Kaslo...thanks for those who believed & made it possible, for I no longer live in Vancouver, & have missed Headlines Theatre! *Us and Them* is a powerful portrayal by all who prepared the play & who intervened, & David D who so graciously &

perceptively guided the learnings! Hurray for all of you there! You can feel you've offered a great service to humanity! Karen Pidcock, webcast audience member in Kaslo, BC

"The *Us and Them* web cast was amazing. The scene of Tanner getting dressed was beautiful - I imagine ever more so in person – just a really touching, moving scene and I felt like even just that quick glimpse into Tanner's life helped me understand so much more (about transgender issues) and think so much about everything. Congratulations on an amazing performance to everyone involved."

Emma Tarver, web cast viewer in Calgary, AB

"I just got done watching the *Us and Them* webcast. The play is fantastic. I'm so glad I got to see it. I wish I had it recorded somehow so I could watch it again or show it to people."

Kayla Overkill, web cast viewer in Fountain Valley, CA

And...there is this:

<http://vancouverisawesome.com/?s=%22Us+and+Them%22>