

# Opening Act



"Opening Act gives me a light of hope that I can get somewhere in life, and grow, and continue growing."

- Odley, Opening Act Alum



**94% OF STUDENTS ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO ATTEND SCHOOL BECAUSE OF OPENING ACT.**

## MISSION

Opening Act's free, long-term, after-school theater programs give students attending New York City's most under-served public schools the opportunity to gain confidence, pride, and the knowledge that they can succeed at anything in life. [www.openingact.org](http://www.openingact.org)

## WHO WE ARE

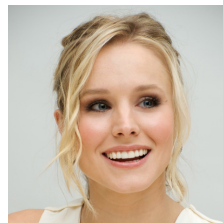
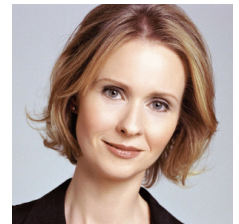
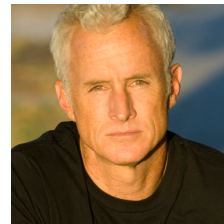
Opening Act currently serves 36 of New York City's most high-need public high schools. We specifically reach out to schools with low graduation rates (as few as 33% of students graduating in 4 years) and a severe lack of theater and arts opportunities for their students.

## WHAT WE DO

Although our medium is the theater, our results go well beyond the stage. Opening Act students emerge as energized leaders within their schools. They value community and commitment and display confidence in themselves and their ability to accomplish anything they set out to achieve.

## HOW WE DO IT 10TH ANNUAL BENEFIT PLAY READING

Opening Act is thrilled to present its Annual Benefit Play Reading at New World Stages on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. This one-night only event features some of the **biggest stars of stage and screen** performing a live play reading, directed by **Tony Award-winner Kenny Leon** (*A Raisin in the Sun*). Attended by over 500 high-net worth urban professionals, arts enthusiasts, and celebrity supporters, this year's event will feature a **Chef's Tasting Menu** for VIP guests and an incredible celebrity performance, all to support empowering and transformative experiences in our most high-need schools.



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## JOIN CELEBRITY ARTISTIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Uzo Aduba  
Kristen Bell  
Alexa Fogel  
Andrew McCarthy  
Jean Smart  
Cecily Strong

## AND PAST PLAY READING ACTORS

Laura Benanti  
Beau Bridges  
Stockard Channing  
Edie Falco  
Michael McKean  
Cynthia Nixon  
Bernadette Peters  
Tonya Pinkins  
John Slattery  
Anika Noni Rose  
Courtney B. Vance  
Lillias White  
David Zayas

## AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ali Kamin, *Co-President*  
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Loren Black, *Secretary*  
Kym Blanchard  
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Leah Day  
Michael Fleming  
Iliana Guibert  
Maza Tiyi Myrie  
Rohini Pragasam  
Jamie Trowbridge  
Jonathan Schorr

## IN SUPPORTING THIS INCREDIBLE EVENT.

For inquiries or to secure your host committee membership, please contact Paul Gutkowski, Development Director, at [paul@openingact.org](mailto:paul@openingact.org) or 917-657-8669.

## EVENT HOST COMMITTEE

Join the Opening Act network as a Host Committee member of the 10TH ANNUAL BENEFIT PLAY READING to meet other passionate, like-minded supporters, make a lasting impact on our work, and support the next generation of leaders. We would be honored by your service.

## AS A HOST COMMITTEE MEMBER, YOU WILL...

- Be a part of a spectacular and exclusive group of individuals who care deeply about our city's most talented and deserving youth.
- See the results of your involvement in a successful and impactful organization that clearly makes a difference in the lives of young people and on the under-resourced schools they attend.
- Be recognized as a Host Committee member on event invitations, programs, and on our website.
- Receive our deep gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous impact you will make on our students and our work.

## WHAT WE ASK OF EACH HOST COMMITTEE MEMBER...

- **Purchase your ticket to attend our phenomenal event on Tuesday, May 3!** Ticket prices will begin at \$250. Special discount ticket packages will be made available exclusively to Host Committee members.
- **Bring along 3 guests in addition to yourself.** Remember, special ticket packages are available only to Host Committee members. You may choose to purchase a package yourself and then give/sell the additional tickets to friends - OR just have friends purchase tickets on their own.
- **Join us for an inspiring Host Committee Soiree:**
  - A celebratory event where members can learn more about Opening Act's work and get an exclusive sneak peek into the Play Reading event!
  - Date & Time: Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the home of Robert Burton, 415 West Broadway, 6th Floor, between Prince Street and Spring Street.

For inquiries or to join the Host Committee, please contact Paul Gutkowski, Development Director, at [paul@openingact.org](mailto:paul@openingact.org) or 917-657-8669.

**To ensure recognition as a Host Committee member on printed materials, please confirm your participation by February 24, 2016.**