

Giving Voice To A New Generation Of American Theatre

Director: Navigating the Sea Change in American Regional Theatre



- Suzanne Delle, MFA
- Assistant Professor of Theatre, York College of PA, York, PA, USA

“[I]f artistic directors are in many ways the visible figureheads of their institutions, the very face of the American theatre is changing in front of our eyes.”

Tran, Diep. 2019. *The Turnover Recipe: Add New Voices and Audiences*, Stir <https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/04/09/the-turnover-recipe-add-new-voices-and-audiences-stir/>.

“Since 2015, 97 artistic directors of major theatres around the country, most of them Baby Boomers, have stepped down or announced their departure; and to date many have been replaced by a crop of 30- and 40-something artists, a sizable amount of whom are women and/or people of color.”

Tran, Diep. 2019. *The Turnover Recipe: Add New Voices and Audiences*, Stir <https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/04/09/the-turnover-recipe-add-new-voices-and-audiences-stir/>.

“Gay, straight, trans, non-binary, female, Asian, Black, Native American, you name it, we exist within this field. We are creating art that is meaningful, we have voices that deserve to be heard and access to the table where those decisions are made.” –Hana Sharif, Repertory Theatre St. Louis

Tran, Diep. 2019. *The Next 10 Years*. <https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/04/09/the-next-10-years/>

How is your organization reacting and relating to this world if the world is hungrier for representation? Are your leaders looking like the world, or is it basically white leadership and just producing plays of color? If you’re doing that, I’m not really sure at the end of the day it would be the right course to take. At some point someone’s going to say it’s colonial. Are you sharing the power? – Chay Yew, Victory Gardens Theatre

Pierce, Judd Raymond. 2020. *Chay Yew: Break the Table and Build a New one*.

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2020/05/27/chay-yew-break-the-table-and-build-a-new-one/>

“The conversation for me wasn’t, am I ready to lead? It’s, are you ready to let me lead? Are you ready to let me be of service?” – Robert Barry Fleming, Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Tran, Diep. 2019. *The Turnover Recipe: Add New Voices and Audiences*, Stir <https://www.americantheatre.org/2019/04/09/the-turnover-recipe-add-new-voices-and-audiences-stir/>.