

# LETTERS TO KAMALA – DISCUSSIONS

A live online zoom talk-back with the artists will take place on

**THURSDAY MARCH 18TH, 7 PM EDT**

The zoom link will be sent to all ticket buyers with their confirmation code.

## Suggested Discussion Prompts

The following questions are intended as discussion starters for student groups, book clubs etc. who have seen WAM's reading of "Letters to Kamala".

1. Playwright Rachel Lynett explained her motivation for writing "Letters to Kamala" as:

"I wanted to write a play that explored pride mixed in with caution, a play that questioned our cultural obsession with firsts but also made room for understanding the weight that being "first" carries. Who were the other firsts? What sacrifices did they have to make to get there and what can we ultimately never compromise on?"

During the 2020 election we witnessed a lot of firsts. Discuss the weight that being first carries. What are the particular expectations put upon elected officials whose identities make them the first? Have you ever experienced being the first to do or be something?

2. In "Letters to Kamala" we are introduced to Charlotta Bass, Charlene Mitchell and Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink as three powerful women on whose shoulders Vice President Kamala Harris now stands. Take a few moments to brainstorm the people on whose shoulders you stand. Who are your ancestors? (Note: these don't have to be people you are related to, they can be people alive or dead who inspire your work and life choices). What have you learned from them? What do you owe them?
3. What piece of advice that Charlotta Bass, Charlene Mitchell or Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink offered to Kamala in the play particularly sticks with you? What advice or challenge would you offer VP Kamala Harris as she begins her term? Can you take the same advice into your own life/work?

For more information on WAM Theatre: [www.wamtheatre.com](http://www.wamtheatre.com)

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