

# One Hundred Percent American?

## *The Klan Comes to Colorado*

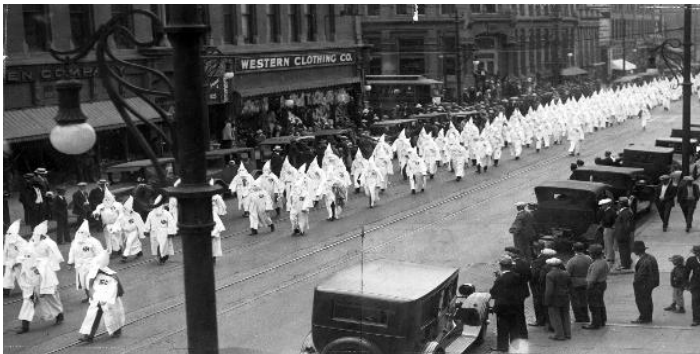
A new play by Susan M. Motika

### About the Play

Political polarization, claims of stolen elections, and racial and anti-immigrant hatred are fracturing American society. But this is not new. Look back a hundred years when the Ku Klux Klan came to Colorado in the new documentary play, *One Hundred Percent American?* In the 1920's, the Klan seized electoral power in Colorado and unleashed a wave of discrimination and economic boycotts. *One Hundred Percent American?* chronicles the rise of the Klan in Colorado and the stories of resistance by courageous leaders. Using oral histories, newspaper accounts, music and videos – the audience gets a rare window into a turbulent period of Colorado history. This is told through the stories of people such as Colorado's first African American woman doctor, Justina Ford and Denver Mayor Ben Stapleton, a Klan leader. From the Klan's sudden rise to its ignominious retreat, *One Hundred Percent American?* confronts the audience with a critical question: what price must be paid to uphold democracy and equity, then and now?

### About the Playwright

Susan M. Motika, JD is a Denver native who is trained in journalism, law, policy and health equity. She acted in a number of plays early in her career and has always been drawn to first-hand historical stories of justice, conflict and equity. Through her work and leadership in legal services, philanthropy, community justice and public health, in Boston and in Denver, Susan has supported the voice and power of community members. Following her retirement as an associate director of public health in 2021, Susan wrote *One Hundred Percent American?* after researching the Klan's rise to power -- and the people who opposed it.



The KKK marches in Denver, 1926



NAACP meets in Denver, 1920's