

One Hundred Percent American?

The Klan Comes to Colorado

A new play by Susan Motika

About the Play

Political polarization -- claims of stolen elections, and racial and anti-immigrant hatred are fracturing society today. But this is not new. Look back a hundred years in the new documentary play, *One Hundred Percent American?* when the Ku Klux Klan came to Colorado. In the 1920's, the Klan seized electoral power in Colorado and unleashed a wave of discrimination, intimidation and economic boycotts. *One Hundred Percent American?* chronicles the rise of the Klan in Colorado and the stories of resistance by courageous community leaders.

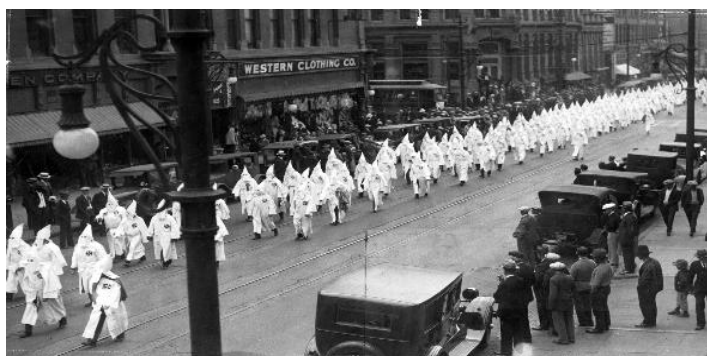
Using oral histories, speeches, newspaper accounts and music, the audience gets a rare window into a turbulent period of Colorado history. Learn about the advocacy of African American leaders Justina Ford, Clarence Holmes and Joseph Westbrook from Denver's famed Five Points neighborhoods. Meet other key leaders who resisted the Klan, including Denver District Attorney Philip Van Cise, Rose Lueras, Father Matthew Smith, and Attorney Charles Ginsberg. Understand how Mayor Ben Stapleton's active support was critical to the Klan's ascendancy.

From the Klan's sudden rise in the 1920's to its ignominious retreat, *One Hundred Percent American?* compels a painful reckoning with Colorado history -- and an invitation for action today.

The complete play is scheduled for a public reading in the spring of 2022.

About the Playwright

Susan Motika is a Denver native who has focused her professional work on journalism, law, policy and social justice. She acted in a number of plays early in her career and has always been drawn to first-hand historical stories about justice, conflict and equity. Susan has supported the voice and power of community members -- as a public interest lawyer, policy advocate, and public health leader. Susan wrote *One Hundred Percent American?* in 2021 after extensive interviews and collaboration with community members, historians and librarians.



The KKK marches in Denver, 1926



Meeting of the NAACP in Denver

For more information, please contact Susan Motika at susanmotika9595@comcast.net