

One Hundred Percent American?

The Klan Comes to Colorado

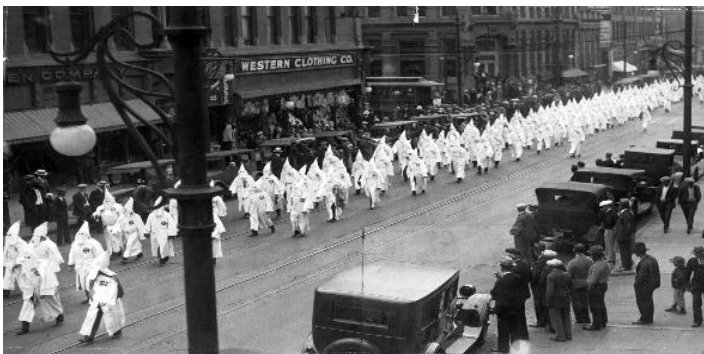
A new play by Susan Motika

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 sources such as oral histories, newspaper accounts and music, the audience gets a rare window into a turbulent period of Colorado history. This is told through the stories of Colorado's first African American woman doctor, Justina Ford, Mayor Ben Stapleton, District Attorney Philip Van Cise and community leader Rose Lueras. 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.

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 of justice, conflict and equity. Susan has supported the voice and power of community members -- as a legal services attorney in Boston's public housing developments; as a restorative and community justice director in Denver; as a funder of community organizing in Denver; and as a Colorado public health policy leader increasing health access before and during the COVID-19 crisis. Following her retirement as an associate director of public health in 2021, Susan wrote *One Hundred Percent American?* 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 or 303-523-7891.

