

Crossing the BLVD' Brings Stories of Immigration to Stockton Campus Center Theatre

Refugees' Experiences Explored in Sept. 30 Performance

For Immediate Release;

Tuesday, September 02, 2014

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Galloway Township, NJ- The culmination of three years of interviews with nearly 100 immigrants who live in the borough of Queens, New York will be delivered to students and the public at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in a unique audiovisual performance.

"Crossing the BLVD: strangers, neighbors, aliens in a new America" is a performance based on the critically acclaimed book of the same name by Judith Sloan and Warren Lehrer. Sloan's presentation will take place **Tuesday, Sept, 30, 2014** at 6 p.m. in the Stockton Campus Center Theatre, located on the college's main Galloway campus.

Sloan and Lehrer met individuals from across the globe over a three-year period without ever leaving their home borough of Queens, the nation's most ethnically diverse locality. They asked immigrants why they journeyed to the United States and asked them to share their experiences in their new homeland. Their collection of portraits and stories was compiled into a book and is now delivered to audiences as a visual dialogue performed onstage.

Actor/writer/documentary artist Sloan "channels" many of the people whom the couple interviewed. The performance, which is free and open to the public, will be illuminated by projections of Lehrer's photographs along with an original soundtrack of music and sounds, including Sloan's audio mixes and music by Scott Johnson and Gogol Bordello.

Sloan and Lehrer founded EarSay, an artist-driven, non-profit arts organization, to uncover stories of the uncelebrated. Their work is designed to transcend the boundaries of gender, generations, culture and class through education and artistic productions.

The performance is sponsored by Stockton's School of General Studies, the Writing Minor, the School of Arts and Humanities, and the Political Engagement Project. For more information, contact Judith Copeland, Writing Minor coordinator, at <u>Judith.Copeland@Stockton.edu</u> or call 609-287-9901. # # #