

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cecil Youngblood. I am the Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Intercultural Affairs for Beloit College. I first encountered Ron Jones and Larry Tish the originators, creators, and performers of Black Jew Dialogues during my attendance at a diversity conference three years ago. From the moment they began their performance I knew it was something we needed to have on our campus.

The performance was outstanding. It was entertaining, informative, funny, topical but most important made us all think. It challenged all of us to really look at ourselves in particular and others through a different lens which allowed for more open and honest discussion. It set the tone and attitude for the entire conference.

I immediately talked with them after the performance to invite them to perform at Beloit College the following year. Even though I had seen the performance the year before, not only did I find it to be just as entertaining but also just as challenging and thought provoking. Our campus, students, faculty and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performance, asked many questions in the conversations that followed and requested that we bring them to campus again.

By popular demand, Ron, Larry, and Black Jew Dialogues made another appearance this fall at Beloit College to a full house of returners and newbies to the BJD experience. People laughed, moaned, groaned, applauded and cheered at the performance. Again, there were challenging questions and good conversation that followed the performance and for weeks after.

The show reflects a lot of thought, care, and real appreciation for understanding people, their differences and similarities. Without being directly "in your face", which tends to shut people down, Larry and Ron get in "your face" by giving you permission it seems to laugh at the things that scare us most, ourselves and people that appear to be different.

We have been asked once again to bring them back with the promise of an even larger audience. The single most response we received in our evaluation was that everyone on our campus should see Black Jew Dialogues. We agree.

Sincerely,

  
Cecil Youngblood

Assistant Dean of Students

Director of Intercultural Affairs

