



Arís Statement to BIPOC artists and our theater community about our shared values.

Arís is proud to be a part of an artistic community in Atlanta and the nation that is on the right side of history. We stand in full throated support of Black Lives Matter.

Past: Where We Came From

Arís began with a mission to present new and classic offerings of theater from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. We brought plays that we wanted Atlanta to see, and we revisited plays that the world has known for a long, long time which could do with another outing. While we developed a community of artists who have been happy to work with us - and it has been a modestly diverse group - we cannot be sure that we have become a home for BIPOC artists, patrons, volunteers, board members, or any other role that theaters have.

Present: What We See Now

At all times we stand for equality, diversity, and inclusion. We acknowledge that there are obstacles for our BIPOC brothers and sisters. We pledge to do what we can to remove and overcome those obstacles. We welcome BIPOC artists into our organization and our work, and we look forward to discovering broader, deeper, and more diverse insights as we explore our mission shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow artists.

Future: What We Will Do

This, then, is our commitment: to make Arís a welcoming home for BIPOC artists to work and play that is comfortable, open, and safe.

We are taking the time to look again at who we are, the home we inhabit, what stories we share, so that we are a better and worthier part of the community that sustains us. Toward that end, we pledge to take these steps:

- We stand with the BIPOC community and declare that Black Lives Matter.
- We will seek and implement EDI training for our organization and share that training with our casts and companies.
- We will open our leadership to BIPOC members of the community.
- We will diversify our casts and companies.
- We will be transparent about our work in these areas.
- We will participate and be active in this important community conversation.

We know we have much to do. But at Arís our hearts are full and open to this work.