

COUNTERINSURGENCY

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ADPD '22

From USA

Currently in New York City

ADV-9154: Forms of Assembly

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Fall 2020–Spring 2021

COUNTERINSURGENCY is a field play in five acts at Harvard University. It takes from a field manual—published at Harvard, later promoted to the world of policy, military, and eventually even ranks of insurgents themselves. That manual and the Center behind it is where our story begins. This is an excursion into policy, power, play, hearts, minds, influence, and arms. COUNTERINSURGENCY explores how artists, activist, and insurgents have worked together, knowingly or not, to cultivate new and critical practices within the context of open arms. While they pretend no casual connection, they in all cases overlap in their goals to secure relationships on the ground: getting to know people is the critical path to victory.



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WHAT IS COUNTERINSURGENCY?

Counterinsurgency is a paramilitary operation to defeat a popular uprising. Counterinsurgency was born at Harvard, as a field manual onto the world of policy, military, and eventually even ranks of insurgents themselves. That manual, Counterinsurgency Field Manual, was penned by General David Petraeus while a Visiting Scholar at Harvard in 2006. The question of arms in counterinsurgency is a controversial one. Our play looks to reinvent and reimagine this question: How might our arms serve us inwardly—to disarm, in other words, to invent new ways of being together, new forms of life, and new social relations?

This is a call to open arms.

A PLAY BY ANTHONY TERZINO @FIVEACTPLAY

