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Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Veteran-Focused Programming

During the run of *Grounded*, a show about an ace fighter pilot whose career changes course after an unexpected pregnancy, [Milwaukee Rep](#) partnered with a number of veteran's organizations to create programming supporting the local veteran community. The program connected veterans with each other, resources and the Greater Milwaukee community as a whole.

It started with "Vets Light Up the Arts" on March 2, a celebration of veterans in the arts at Milwaukee's War Memorial Center. The event featured live performances by local veterans, short films focused on military culture and an art gallery showcasing local veteran artists, and was a collaboration between The Rep, The Wisconsin Veteran's Chamber of Commerce and Feast of Crispian: Shakespeare with Veterans.



March also featured a series of panel discussions dealing with topics such as women in the military, veterans' mental health, the effects of being a military parent and the increase in the use of drones in U.S. warfare. There were also a series of pop-up performances, actor talk-backs, a food drive and a newly launched [Military Discount Code](#) at Milwaukee Rep. The Rep's new discount ticket program offers 25% off adult tickets to active-duty personnel, veterans, children of active-duty military and military spouses.

The veterans programming was coordinated by The Rep's Community Engagement department, and was specifically led by Community Engagement Associate Nabra Nelson.

About this programming, Nelson said: "[The Rep's production of] *Grounded* provided us with a unique opportunity to reach out to the military and veteran community in order to strengthen our city through celebration of local veterans and contemplation of



The Rep's *Grounded*

issues that affect less than 1% of our population, yet send ripples throughout our entire nation. Our new status as a Blue Star Theatre, member of the Veterans Health Coalition and Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce is a proud declaration of The Rep's ongoing commitment to actively fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with our local veteran and military community."



Preview of Milwaukee Rep's Grounded

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