

ONE MAN AVENGERS



7:30 p.m. March 25, 2023

Stephen B Humphrey Theater
Saint John's University

Charlie Ross has a most unusual superpower, and he's about to take you along for a thrill ride. With frenetic energy and power-packed parody, Ross has created a spot-on sendup of a whole universe of favorite films ... and loaded it into a hilarious solo show. It's "Nerd heaven," said the *Chicago Tribune*, and fortified with "nuclear levels of energy," according to *Variety*. Imagine getting a blow-by-blow recap of a really fun movie from your best friend. Now scrap that and imagine your best friend is truly hilarious and can channel dozens of characters at once. You won't believe what you're about to see!

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Creative storytelling
- Heroes
- Community
- Teamwork
- Live Courageously

ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances/one-man-avengers>

<https://charlesstuartross.com/bio/>

ENGAGE

Marvel's Avengers comics were first published in the 1960s, leading to various adaptations. Most recently, the characters hit the big screen in 2008 with the release of Ironman. There are 30 films total in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, with each ranging from 2-3 hours in length.

- What is similar between Charlie Ross' adaptation of the Avengers compared to others you have seen? What is different?
- How does a story change when told in various ways?
- What happens to complex stories when they are reduced?

The concept of good and evil is a common trope in storytelling. When combined with the hero's journey – a common narrative archetype wherein the hero goes on a journey to defeat the villain, learns a lesson, wins a victory, and then returns home – you get the basic plot of most Avengers films.

- How did the hero's journey play out during this performance? Did time play a factor in the way that this was told?
- How is good and evil shown in your life?
- How did props and lighting effect Charlie's characters and emotions he was expressing?

In Charlie Ross' biography he notes, "I sometimes miss being in big shows with a big cast. My community tends to be spread pretty far and wide." He then, goes on to mention, "Fandom is a community, theatre is a community, and when I make a new show about something I love, I feel like it is what keeps my community together."

- Why is finding a community important?
- How does traveling (or being in a new place) make finding your community difficult? Easier?
- What does community mean at CSB and SJU for you?