

What



People

Are



Saying About



Access
To
Theatre



Access to Theatre offers a diverse group of energetic teens and young adults (ages 13 - 24) of all abilities the opportunity to

develop:

- **creative expression**
- **self-esteem**
- **friendship**
- **independence**
- **leadership**
- **mentoring relationships**

through original theatre in:

- **4-Week Summer Institute**
- **After-School Activities & Collaborations**
- **Workshops & Special Events**

and more...



Access to Theatre is a program of Partners for Youth with Disabilities in collaboration with Until Tomorrow Productions, VSA arts of Massachusetts, and the Boston Center for the Arts. Photography by Martin R. Anderson, Don West, Craig Bailey, Partners for Youth with Disabilities and ATT collaborators.



For more information about ATT contact Partners for Youth with Disabilities,
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1. Hold on to me so I could see the light
from your eyes. So many dangers of your light brings forth the breaking tone of my voice. Rejoice and say aloud what you hear but not what you speak aloud of salvation (repeat chorus)
 2. Bring forth the upright night and lone some days on the wind that sparks up the earth and change the sky. It's a whole new change to the world because there's nothing much to lack. Keep it up to yourself and have a whole new world say a-ha and a-ha (repeat chorus)
 3. Be aware and more along with some things happening in the world of Salvation. And make the great speech
a whole boundless of redemption to who were you try to speak about your own share and goodness. Rely upon it and shout good new oh goodness! (repeat chorus)
 4. Praise to the secret world of many times that you refuse to open to pull back and bring back things. Several things of past and many more that are to come. Get it right and have your way. Because it's from the alarm that we are all alerted (repeat chorus)
 5. Speak up to the crowd and let the world hear your voice. Let it say aloud of your rhythm of salvation. The world is much big like the big earth that is filled with a lot of young and big upon crowded humans. Speak out and let them hear you speak. speak oh! of your salvation. (end chorus)
- Chorus
Get it right and have it your way oh speak oh! of your salvation.

Speak Oh! And Let Them Hear You Speak

an original rap created by Grace Ihenetu and performed in both English and Nigerian in the Summer Institute Production of *!TRANSFORM! 2007*.



*“ACT really lets you – no, **MAKES** you – get right in there, in the process, and ‘get your hands dirty’ so to speak. It has taught me innumerable lessons in patience, cooperation, teamwork, leadership, and compassion. It’s just one of those moments that make you realize that you do have an effect on your surroundings, and you can make a difference.”*

• voice • music • singing • rap • percussion



Bad Mentality

A mini one act written by 7 members of the cast performed in the Summer Institute Production of *!TRANSFORM! 2007*.

Part One: Poem

[ACTORS are staggered on stage; NARRATOR reads a line, then each person repeats his or her line.]

M: Blindness is characterized... by not being able to see.

L: I wonder if... as a society...

C: Do we suffer from thee?

B: Most people...

J: Are content with smelling a rose...

H: While the poor and downtrodden...

N: Sit transfixed in a frozen pose.

ALL: THERE IS A CURE FOR SOCIAL BLINDNESS...

N: You see... It begins by changing our bad mentality.

ALL: BAD MENTALITY!

[ACTORS move to three separate groups, and hold a frozen pose as if they're in the middle of a conversation.]

ALL: I REALLY HATE IT WHEN....

J & L: I really hate it when people judge me!

C & H: I really hate it when people make fun of my disability!

B, M, N: I really hate it when I'm ignored!

Part Two: Conversation

[EVERYONE is frozen in a pose. Only the group that is speaking is moving and talking.]

J & L: I hate it when people judge me unfairly.

J: I hate it when people judge me unfairly. I remember this one time when I was in seventh grade I told my teacher I wanted to be a singer and she told me – you'll never be a singer! You can't do that...

L: I hate it when people judge me too. I remember one time I was at a party and all day people kept yelling at me for no reason.

C & H: I hate it when people make fun of my disability.

C: Oh man...I hate it when people make fun of my disability. One time I had cigarette butts thrown at me. I was pushed into a bathroom.

H: Oh yeah. Well I hate when people make fun of my disability. Imagine going to school every day and feeling judged....

B, M, & N: I hate it when I'm ignored

B: I hate it when I'm ignored. I remember when I was in school, I couldn't always understand, and people would just look at me like I was crazy.

M: I hate being ignored too. Sometimes I call or email my family and I want them to respond, but they don't.

N: Sometimes I feel more ignored in my own community....

ALL: I hate it when I'm the victim of a Bad Mentality...
Is Social Blindness....
We have the Power to Change!



Bad Mentality

A mini one act written by 7 members of the cast performed in the Summer Institute Production of *!TRANSFORM!* 2007.



“Are the wheelchairs true?” – a question asked by a very young audience member during a question and answer session with the cast after a performance of the Summer Institute. Her question lead to an intriguing discussion about who uses wheelchairs and how they can be used in art and life.

acting • improvisation • storytelling • directing



“Everyone is so supportive of each other.”

“My words have power... I have power.”

• voice • music • singing • rap • percussion



Who Is This Lady?

an original poem turned into a song by Mariah Gresha-Conont performed in the Summer Institute Production of *!TRANSFORM!* 2007.

Who is this lady
Who has, so strangely,
Entered my life, and
Stolen my heart?

Where has she come from?
Is she that someone
Who will now kindle
That fatal spark?

What is this pain that I feel,
Sharper and keener than steel?
Is she the one who knows that I'm lonely,
Who will possess me in true matrimony?

Shall I caress her,
Deeply possess her
Make her my Empress
When she's my own?

Her kindness warms me,
Gently transforms me,
And my heart tells me,
"No more of stone."

Is she the star of my soul,
Or an unreachable goal?
Is she the one who'll grant my desire
Or leave me burning in sorrowful fires?



The Only Truth

An original song by Marina Shelton performed in the Summer Institute Production of *DAY mares, NIGHT dreams* 2008.

If I had only known you better
Maybe this wouldn't have
been so hard
And maybe I wouldn't be
feeling
A pain in my heart
like a sharp shard

The only truth to share
that somewhere above
you're watching over
me. Somewhere out there
and I hope you will.

I wish that you had not gone but
I pray that now you're free.
Thanks for not giving up
and thanks for saving me.

You would stand right there
beside me.
Especially through the
hard times, like surgery.

The only truth I don't want
to hide is that when I first
heard the news, I cried
and at your service too.

I didn't really know you, but still
forever miss you, I will.
If you watch over the earth
as it keeps growing and
As it turns round and round
and round
One day you'll see me
standing in the ground

You've always helped people to
try and survive
So you won't have
died in vain

I remember you helped
me stay alive whenever
I hear your name

The only truth I will also say is
that I'll keep working hard
I know I'll be independent
some day
Whatever happens I know I'll
find a way
When I think about the old
days
And all I have been through
I think about my spirits' ways
And how they're still working
Thanks to you

The only truth I have left to say
is that I'll keep missin' you
And prayin'

Yes missin' you and prayin'
Now I'll say this I mean
What I'm saying now you
should see
Thanks for saving me

Thanks for not giving up on me
And thanks for saving me

And make it through like it
would say in a card



Faultered Universe

An original poem by Bridget Morris performed in the Summer Institute Production of DAY mares, NIGHT dreams 2008.

My brother might be going back to Europe, and I know my sister is going back to Asia.
They are two best friends of mine.
Two people that mean everything to me and leaving is like a gradually
Faultered Universe.

acting • improvisation • storytelling • directing



A Love From Above

An original song by Neilsen Sosa performed in the Summer Institute Production of DAY mares, NIGHT dreams 2008.

Verse 1

You came from above
you gave me all your love
Since I have all your love
I can fly free like a dove
You make me have better days
you're like the suns glorious rays
You spark a passion inside
You give courage to expose the feelings I hide
Seeing you every day it takes my breath away,
I love you all the way
That's why I'm here to stay

Chorus

A love from above you give me heavenly love (4)

Verse 2

Ever since we met I had my heart set on you, you are my love
pure and true,
Ever since we met I had my heart set on you
You are my love pure and true,
Ever since we met I had my heart set on you
You are my love pure and true

Chorus

A love from above you give me heavenly love (4)

You came from above you gave me all your love
Since I have all your love I can fly free like a dove
Thank you, always being there for me,
For us I always knew that this was meant to be!!!

(Repeat Chorus)

• voice • music • singing • rap • percussion



The Saturday After School Program (2009)

Improvisational movement exploration with props.

- movement • choreography • play writing •



I learned how to play guitar and that was cool.

acting • improvisation • storytelling • directing



Parallel Universe

An original song by Danielle Briganti performed in the Summer Institute Production of Expressive Odyssey 2009

I've been stuck over and over
Again in the same routine.
I just can't get out of my head.
I feel like everything I had is
Washed away going far far
Away just like this dirty map.
Again, this time it is different.
My mind is blank, I have writer's
Block. I can't remember my name.
What is it again? Oh I forgot.
I don't know who I am. It's hard
To figure this problem out.
I know I have friends. Do I know them?
Everywhere I go I end up in a
Parallel Universe. What can I say,
I lost my way.

• voice • music • singing • rap • percussion



Starting something new and meeting new people.

- movement • choreography • play writing •



My thoughts love to wander
They travel to the moon
Higher like the rising sun
Higher than my love for you
Kiss her, kiss her, and kiss her
She will always kiss you back
You have to do listen to your heart
You have dream the biggest dreams
That is having the best part
Kiss her, kiss her, and kiss her
She will always kiss you back

Kiss Her

An original song by Sarah Wright performed in
the Summer Institute Production of Expressive
Odyssey 2009



I am an artist.

• voice • music • singing • rap • percussion

Access to Theatre was made possible through funding from:

Artists For Humanity

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

Boston Cultural Council

Boston Now

Carl & Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation

Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation

CVS Charitable Trust Foundation

First Night Boston

Fuller Foundation

Garth Brooks Teammates 4 Kids Foundation

Harvard University After-School Initiative

Hyams Foundation

L. J. Balfour Foundation

Massachusetts Cultural Council — YouthReach

National Endowment for the Arts

Ronald McDonald Children's Charities

The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities

Target

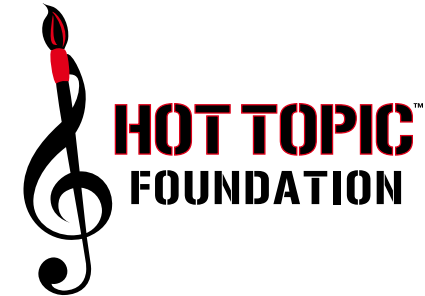
TJX Foundation

Walter Noonan & Deborah Monroe Noonan Trust

VSA arts/Metropolitan Life Foundation — Arts Connect All Project

United States Department of Education Award #H128J060102.ACCESSARTS

United Way of Massachusetts Bay



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