



engage • educate • empower



Using theatre
AS A TOOL
for change

“Of all the plays/entertainers we have had this was the **best value and message** for the money.”

Teacher, East York C.I., Toronto

Forum theatre

TURNING AUDIENCES INTO SPECT-ACTORS

Using the “Forum Theatre” method, an interactive approach that involves the audience in developing real-time strategies for dealing with social and personal issues, we not only raise awareness of the challenges our young audiences face, we engage audience members directly in creating solutions.

In a Mixed Company production, the play examines an issue and purposely presents the worst case scenario to prompt audience participation. Students then intervene in the story, as “spect-actors,” to create a positive alternative ending. A trained Forum Theatre facilitator (the Joker) prepares and encourages the students to replace the actors on stage and to change the story in a constructive way.

As Ontario’s only touring Forum Theatre company, we bring an innovative and interactive approach to examining difficult issues, including family relations, peer pressure, sexual health, racism, homelessness, drugs, alcohol and violence. By using theatre as an educational tool, Mixed Company stimulates critical thinking and engages students in active problem solving.

“...what I liked about my relationship with Mixed Company Theatre was that it was **very professional and collaborative**...I was so impressed, in fact, that I am going to be **booking this group again** for our next school year...”

*Denise Konig, Acting Chaplain,
Father Michael Goetz Secondary School, Mississauga*

Bringing school

CURRICULUM TO LIFE

In addition to introducing the Forum Theatre method—part of the current Ontario drama curriculum for both elementary and secondary schools—the issues Mixed Company Theatre addresses support Ontario curriculum requirements in a number of other areas, including Drama, Language Arts, Health and Physical Education, and Social and Family Studies. Our productions are an excellent tool for bringing tough issues to life, and our teaching support materials assist educators in pre- and post-production discussions in the classroom.

Rehearsing

FOR REALITY

Our productions do more than shine a spotlight on tough issues, and our young audiences do more than sit back and enjoy the show. By placing students in the heart of the action and allowing them to create a positive alternative ending, the shows themselves become a “rehearsal for reality,” empowering audience members and preparing them to deal with similar issues in their own lives in a confident, constructive way.

About

THE COMPANY

For more than 20 years, award-winning Mixed Company Theatre has been creating innovative and socially relevant drama as a tool for positive change. Since 1983, Mixed Company has engaged, educated and empowered more than 300,000 middle and secondary school learners throughout Ontario, and has received numerous awards for artistic excellence, including the Mayor’s Award for the Arts (Toronto), the Pauline Julienne Award, and the Montreal Gazette’s Best New Play Award. Mixed Company has also received the Toronto Safe City Award and the Toronto Mayor’s Commendation for Dedication to Social Justice, and has been nominated for three Dora Mavor Moore awards.

“...**one of the best educational experiences** bar none that I’ve viewed in my 22-year teaching career...a **very gripping and charged** experience...”

*Tom Kriener, Head JCI MPHE,
Jarvis C.I., Toronto*

“...Your performers are very professional and **gifted in dealing with adolescents.**”

*Lauren MacDonald, Vice-Principal,
Parkdale C.I., Toronto*

“...our staff have seen the **visible, positive changes** in a number of youth that took part.”

*Tony Puopolo, Executive Director,
Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club, Toronto*

“I learned that there are **positive possibilities** to seemingly impossible situations.”

*Student, Islington Junior
Middle School, Toronto*

For more information

To learn more about Mixed Company, please visit our website at www.mixedcompanytheatre.com.

To book space in an upcoming Mixed Company Theatre tour, simply call 416-515-8080 or send an e-mail to info@mixedcompanytheatre.com.

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