



SCHOOL PROGRAMMING 2019/20

The Forum Theatre Difference

As Toronto's foremost Forum Theatre company, Mixed Company Theatre has been inspiring our students to create social change for over 20 years.

An UNESCO-recognized educational tool, FORUM THEATRE is a participatory style of theatre that is known for its effectiveness in helping students tackle issues that directly affect them. In a Forum Theatre production, students are invited onto the stage by a trained facilitator to enact "an intervention" where they can either replace a character or suggest a change to the story for the better. Our work is often praised for its ability to combat "the bystander effect" by giving students the opportunity to see the positive outcomes of their interventions played out on stage. Through open and supportive Forum Theatre facilitation, students are able to share and explore strategies with one another in a safe artistic environment.

We are pleased to introduce you to our brand new school programming for the 2019/20 school year. Read on to see how Mixed Company can make a difference in your classroom!



IN YOUR HEAD

A Forum Theatre
Production on
Mental Health
Stigma, Bullying,
and Allyship

Apr 27 - May 08 2020

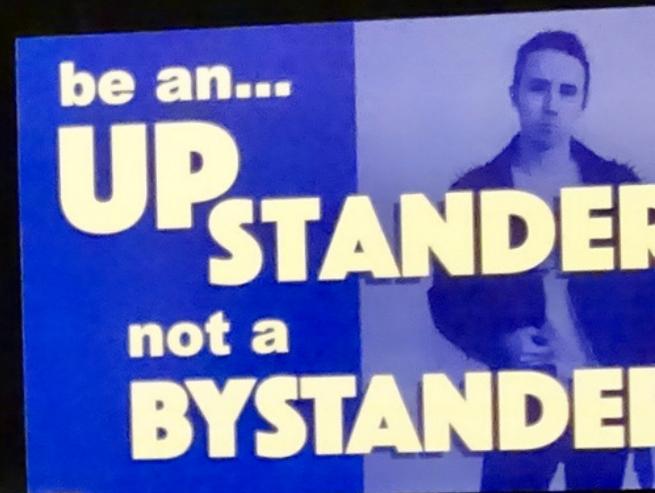


be an...

UPSTANDER

not a

BYSTANDER



Synopsis

In Your Head is an interactive forum theatre piece that has been developed with high school students in order to provide a hard-hitting and realistic story surrounding a young adolescent who is facing mental health issues and the impact it has on his family. It focuses on the stigma surrounding mental health by exploring the individual characters' perspectives and the language they use to describe it. The show demonstrates the ripple effect that mental health has on family and friends. The presentation highlights the affect that social media has on mental health, especially in a school environment.

We follow Rayna, whose brother Sam begins to struggle with anxiety and mental health. After Sam quits the basketball team, is consistently late or absent, his reputation suffers and Rayna is forced to deal with the negative backlash. As a consequence, her personal relationships with teachers, friends, family and peers start to deteriorate. The burden she bears in the absence of her once popular brother becomes difficult to manage.

When Sam becomes the target of bullying on social media, Rayna is quick to stand up for her brother. In the process, she sacrifices her own popularity which leads to broken friendships. This leaves the audience questioning what Rayna can do, how Sam's situation could improve and what resources are available to him and the family. We then ask the audience to discuss and show creative ideas and possible solutions to the challenges being presented.

In Your Head: A Forum Theatre Production on Mental Health Allyship

During the 2018/19 school year we debuted, **IN YOUR HEAD**. We were overwhelmed by the positive response from students and educators. Based on our post performance survey, 100% of schools said they would recommend us. Thrilled by the feedback, we are excited to bring, IN YOUR HEAD back to students this coming year!

IN YOUR HEAD is a forum theatre production for students that addresses mental health, psychological wellbeing and allyship! Written by renowned Forum Theatre playwright, Luciano Iogna and directed by Simon Malbogot, IN YOUR HEAD will specifically focus on the stigma around mental disorders and encourage discussions on how we can be better mental health allies to each other. Like all our Forum Theatre productions, this show is inspired by real stories from teens to ensure that our play reflects the issues that matter most to your students”

Touring: **GTA and surrounding areas**

Semester: **Spring Semester**

Duration: **75 minutes**

Cost: **\$835+HST**

Max Audience: **350-400**

Interested in presenting multiple shows or partnering up with another school? Contact communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com for multiple performance discounts!



**Click [HERE](#) for the
Educator Resource Guide!**

Reviews

Mixed Company Theatre's performance of "In Your Head," by Luciano Loggia was an amazing way to open up conversations with my students about Mental Health. Having students get up on stage and solve in the moment issues was a great way to see how they concur these problems. Having them participate in Forum Theatre opened up a new way for students to face these challenging situations in a safe environment. Thank you MCT for bringing a play that deals with issues our students are facing today.

-Educator, Langstaff Secondary School

85%

of educators said In Your Head helped spark a dialogue about mental health and allyship

50%

of educators said they made discoveries about the dialogue around mental health

100%

of educators said the production was realistic and age appropriate

LIGHTNING FORUM PRESENTATIONS

Customizable
Forum Theatre
Presentations
Available

September 2019 to
June 2020



Lightning Forum Presentations

*Want a show on a topic that isn't covered by our annual Forum Theatre production? This year our acclaimed **LIGHTNING FORUM PRESENTATIONS** will address gender based-violence, bullying, and LGBTQ2S+ discrimination.*

These customized scenario-based LIGHTNING FORUM Presentations (previously only available to professional organizations) gives you the opportunity to choose from a range of issues while maintaining the engaging, participatory style of a Forum Theatre show.

Contact us to learn more about this original presentation format!

Semester: **Available all year round!**

Duration: **75 minutes**

Cost: **\$805+HST**

Max Audience: **350-400**

Interested in presenting multiple shows or partnering up with another school? Contact **communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com** for multiple performance discounts!

IN-CLASS FORUM THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Available
September 2019 to
June 2020



In-Class Forum Theatre Workshops

Our classroom workshops based in **Forum Theatre methodology** give students the opportunity to explore complex social issues in a **safe, facilitated** environment that encourages **creative problem-solving**. Accordingly, our workshops are **customizable** to the issues that are most relevant to your classroom and are compatible with a wide variety of social justice, equity, civics, and arts-related curriculum content.

Starting with fun theatre games designed to promote **participation** and improve **communication skills**, students will then work with our **trained facilitator** to create image-based theatre scenes that encourage them to examine the workshop topic from multiple perspectives. Each session will end with a discussion circle where students will reflect on their work and leave inspired with positive, realistic strategies on the topic at hand.

Suggested topics: bullying, mental health, consent, homophobia and transphobia, sexual assault and harassment, substance misuse, inclusion and equity, peer pressure, and gang violence.

Semester: **Available all year round!**

Duration: **60-75 min** (1 class period; negotiable)

Cost: **\$225+HST**

Participants: **1 class**

To book a workshop contact **communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com**



MIXED COMPANY THEATRE has been producing innovative, socially-relevant theatre as a tool for positive change since 1983. Today Mixed Company Theatre is known for their commitment to inspiring communities and schools across Canada to create social change through theatrical practice. MCT and their facilitators have worked with many youth-based organizations across the GTA including UrbanArts, Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club, and the Sears Drama Festival.

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