

FAR FROM THE HEART

Sheatre

A dating violence prevention program teaching teens about rape, sexual assault and healthy relationships.



Kyle Orzech and Keshia Palm. Michael McLuhan, Photographer

crucial conversations a rehearsal for reality

51% of Canadian women experience at least one incident of physical or sexual violence.

An interactive forum theatre play, **Far From the Heart**, lies at the core of this award-winning dating violence prevention program. It is part of a comprehensive plan integrating film, theatre, educators and health & community services to assist in the delivery of the core curriculum in the areas of sexual health and violence prevention. FFTH/LC was supported by the Government of Ontario's ***It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment from 2016-19.***

For age 12 and up.

86% of sexual assaults reported to police involve girls under the age of 18.

It is NEVER the person's fault if they've been assaulted.

The Story Line:

The girls and guys are focused on image, popularity, and sexual conquest at The Big Party. Felicity is inexperienced and dulled by alcohol. She finds herself tormented by her controlling boyfriend, abandoned by her friend, and assaulted by the guy who seemed to be a helper.

What should be happening? What can a person do in the face of assault? Could Felicity's best friend help her? Will you?

The audience changes the action.

"It was a great opportunity for not only the youth. The men and women you had facilitating the play were phenomenal. It was very eye opening to many of the teachers, staff and community partners who participated in regards to our youth's perspectives and attitudes about gender stereotypes, individual rights and risks of sexual assault in our community. Thank you for starting the conversation"

Lindsay Jones BA, SSW,
Community Health Promoter,
Healthy Schools & Families,
North Bay Parry Sound District
Health Unit

Curriculum and Policy

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association lists Far From the Heart as a curriculum resource For Your Classroom.

The content of the play, the activities and the conversations focus on core curriculum and exercise higher level thinking. Far From the Heart was developed with students and with direct input from educators and experts in sexual health, public health, and mental health. Some curriculum and policy links include:

Healthy Living:
FFTH/LC is all about making healthy choices, decision-making and developing strategies, specifically about sexual activity and consent, and alcohol. It demonstrates: the awareness and skills that reduce risk to personal safety; thinking ahead and applying what they know about sexual health, consent and personal limits; sources of support.

Arts Education and Drama:
Grades 11 -12
exposes students to a unique form of theatre - forum theatre - and our tested application which is internationally recognized; a play which originated in workshops with youth shows the social and cultural impact of the arts.

Safe Schools:
explores gender-based violence; fosters understanding and respect; addresses barriers to reporting; opens conversations



"I cannot imagine an investment that has the potential to impact so many students within Bluewater and provide our staff with the necessary resources to tackle the crucial conversations that must take place related to relationship issues."

Mary Anne Alton, Former Director of Education (retired), Bluewater District School Board, Ontario

wow omgg!!
It was totally awesome!! Me and all my friends really enjoyed the interactions and just the whole thing.. good job you guys and good work
:D

Student (from Facebook)

Ontario Tour: Sept. 24 - Oct. 11, 2019

Maximum 125 students per show preferred. Some flexibility possible. Also suitable for public presentations.

"You guys were incredible at O'Neill High School. You're doing great things and you're very down to Earth. Keep going; you're changing the world. :)"
Travis, student

Fee: (negotiable)

includes
show, discussion groups, educational guide, teacher orientation

Bookings and information:

bookings@sheatre.com

David Sereda 519-387-8677

"I learned about support systems near me and how to say no."
Student, 2018 tour



Intervention: A student steps into the action, replacing an actor and taking on the role of a character to change the situation and solve the problem. The Joker debriefs with the audience.

Forum Theatre problem solving skills

Far From the Heart, developed in collaboration with a group of teens under professional direction, aims to help youth recognize the different forms of pressure and violence in dating relationships, and explores the issues that lie beneath this behavior.

The play presents problematic scenarios that end in a dilemma to deliberately stimulate audience members into action. Forum Theatre is a type of **interactive theatre** created by the innovative and influential practitioner Augusto Boal as part of what he called

his "Theatre of the Oppressed". In this process the audience members can stop a performance, often a short scene in which a character is being oppressed in some way. The audience suggests different actions on-stage in an attempt to change the outcome. As a result, people gain knowledge and problem-solving skills useful in everyday life to resolve conflicts, negotiate relationships and avoid risk.

A half-hour **discussion group with professional counsellors** immediately follows the show.

Teachers are integral contributors, preparing students in advance, and helping them integrate the information

your students' ideas our program format

The Far From the Heart Program includes the following components.

Step One: Preparation

- teacher and facilitator orientation - review the show, activities and the Educational Guidebook filled with resources and engaging lesson plans.
- review what to do if a student reports an assault.
- in-class preparation and interactive discussions led by teachers in the days before the show

Step Two: Presentation - 120 minutes total

- **The Presentation (90 minutes)**
comprised of:
 - 5 minute introduction by The Jokers (actor/facilitators): includes the “rules of engagement”
 - 15 minute film presentation of story, layered with problems
 - 60 minute live theatre forum with facilitated audience improvisation and interactions to solve the problems
 - 5 minute final wrap
- break (5 minutes to travel to break-out debrief spaces)
- **post-show discussion (30 minutes)**
Small groups of youth talk with health, social service and justice workers from community agencies, connecting students with local resources as they process the play and express ideas.

Step Three: Integration

- vital in-class post-show activities, led by teachers in the days following the show, set the students in motion to integrate, apply and deepen their learning, and helping to build a safe, healthy, and compassionate environment.

Maximum Audience Size for Live presentation
~ 125 students

Far From the Heart
has been presented live across Ontario and Saskatchewan through 12 tours, reaching over 28,000 student and community audiences since 2006.

FFTH the interactive movie is available at:
www.farfromtheheart.com
(along with resources and links)

“Far From the Heart works to successfully increase students’ knowledge and shift attitudes.”

research study by The University of Regina

“The production was nothing short of wonderful. Without self-consciousness, topics long dormant sprang back to life again. Beneath the laughter and delight of watching scenes unfold and remix, the more serious side of the message reached its goal.”

Jan Kielven

Positive Climates for Learning Specialist
Curriculum and Instructional Services
York Region District School Board

The post-show debrief fostered a safe environment, providing valuable information regarding who/where students can obtain help if needed.

Jaffe Keeling, teacher, Hincks Dellcrest

“The scenario, the dialogue, the action, could all have ‘viewer discretion advised’ warnings, but that’s the point. It makes you squirm in your seat. It makes you think.”

Scott Woodhouse, reporter, The Meaford Express and an impressed parent of a student in the audience

Sheatre

your partner in meeting your educational goals

Sheatre is a groundbreaking community arts organization based in Ontario.

Since 1985, Sheatre has produced and co-facilitated over 112 community-based plays, events and interactive theatre forum presentations engaging over 142,775 people in Canada, Europe and the US.

At our heart are dynamic, interactive workshops in an array of media. We bring professional artists and tools to stimulate your students’ expression of their ideas, values and concerns. We have the capacity, skills and partners to provide your students with a quality experience in a safe environment.

Far From the Heart past supporters and community partners

The Ontario Arts Council Creative Engagement Fund to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment in Ontario and Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Johansen-Larsen Foundation
 The George Lunan Foundation, ETFO Bluewater Local, UNIFOR Local 1106, OTIP (Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan), Grey Bruce Labour Council and ETFO Bluewater Occasional Teachers' Local

Past supporters: The Ontario Arts Council Creative Engagement Fund to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment in Ontario, The Ontario Arts Council Touring Office, The Canada Council for the Arts, J.P. Bickell Foundation, The Society of Professional Engineers, The George Lunan Foundation, Community Foundation Grey Bruce, Caframo, The Grey Bruce Labour Council, Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre, Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services, Investors Group (Ron Todd), OPSEU Local 260, ETFO Bluewater Local, Bluewater Occasional Teachers Local, OSSTF District 7 (Bluewater) and individuals.

Chosen as the top identified program to teach skills to prevent Sexual Violence. Violence Prevention Grey Bruce's #stopSV survey 2018

Far From the Heart is the recipient of the

✦ **Ontario Ministry of The Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction**

ONTARIO SCHOOL TOUR
 Book a show:
farfromtheheart.com

sheatre
 — play for a change —

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
 an Ontario government agency
 un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

CHANGE THE ACTION. PREVENT THE VIOLENCE.

Sheatre

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www.sheatre.com

Charitable Registration # BN 14003 8134 RR0001
 Contact us for more information or bookings.