

We use theatre to teach, communicate and entertain.

ACT Out has a number of issues we can provide programming on, but specialize in the following topics for 4th through 12th graders, and meet the Indiana State Standards per the Indiana Department of Education (under the standards adjacent to each of our topics):

- ✓ Bullying, including cyber- bullying- Follows Indiana Code 20-34-6-1 (under the anti-bullying and health and wellness standards)
- ✓ Social Anxiety/Character Development (including self-esteem building) – Follows Indiana Code 20-30-5-5 (under family /consumer science category)
- ✓ Diversity & Inclusion: Follows Indiana Code 20-30-5-7
- ✓ Preventing Dating Violence (which includes choosing healthy relationships) Follows Indiana Code 20-30-5-17 and 20-30-5-6 (under the family and consumer science category)
- ✓ Substance Abuse: Follows Indiana Code (under Health & Wellness) Standard 20-30-5-11

ACT Out contracts with a data analyst and subject-specific curriculum specialists to write additional pre and post curriculum that quantifies the effect ACT Out has on student behavior and decision making (as part of performance measurements for summative evaluation purposes.)

“Social-issue theatre and its use of live communication is a very effective method of getting students to begin to talk about complex issues. The common results of the scenes we present is that students find a pathway to connect, comprehend and understand who we are as people and why we do what we do.”

SARA RIEMEN, FORMER ACT OUT DIRECTOR,
ACT OUT ENSEMBLE



Act Out
SOCIAL-ISSUE THEATER



Claude McNeal
PRODUCTIONS

For more information or to schedule a performance, please contact:

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Changing lives one student at a time.



The TRANSFORMING POWER of Social-Issue Theatre

The ACT Out Ensemble uses the art of theatre to engage, educate and entertain audiences on persistent social issues. Through the power of live theatre, the ACT Out Ensemble casts light on problems, creates conversations, and identifies solutions for audiences of all ages.

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Act Out
SOCIAL-ISSUE THEATER



“The ACT Out Ensemble offers powerful and compelling messages, packed into dynamic performances. The audiences blossomed with the interaction.”

THE WASHINGTON POST



What is ACT Out?

A featured part of Claude McNeal Productions (the nationally-acclaimed performance/theatre education company headquartered in Indianapolis), ACT Out is a social-issues improvisational theatre education program that centrally helps students of various ages learn to better face the difficult conflicts that are pervading and damaging societal issues in their everyday lives, encouraging students to embrace individualized solutions. Topics such as bullying, diversity, social anxiety, or anywhere from up to twenty-four other serious issues are acted out by professional actors in intense dramatic scenes, followed by frank, research-based and to the point analysis by both audience and presenters.

Founded in 1995, the ACT Out Ensemble has already helped transform the lives of more than 500,000 through the unique power of live social-issues theatre, and has been recognized by *The Washington Post*, *CNN* and *Teen People Magazine* for its excellence in original work.

How We Work

All shows are original and researched in meetings with respected health professionals and educators, and then presented through the use of improvisation by four to six actors. ACT Out structures performances to meet the organization's needs and provides each audience with an entertaining and educational experience. When combined with classroom-based learning, ACT Out programs are an essential element of reinforcing lessons and retention through active discussion. Our data shows that 85% of students who participated in our programs felt it assisted them with their real-life situations and daily encounters. In contrast, data shows that only 5-10% retain information in non-dramatized presentations.

Every ACT Out performance (length, topic and format) is uniquely tailored to suit the intended grade level. Students come away from ACT Out programs with an improved self image, a feeling that they belong to a larger community, a stronger sense of character and an increased spirit of cooperation. We are dedicated to crafting programs that are meaningful to the communities we serve and committed to bringing significant change to the lives of students.

Performances generally last 45 minutes to one hour and feature a number of scenes highlighting selected topics. Scenes are immediately followed by an audience discussion, facilitated by an ACT Out director (also involving the cast), with the goals of empowering students to actively explore ideas presented in the performance, and engaging them in conversations that create continued awareness of the topics. While these discussions embrace personal responsibility and individual solutions, students are encouraged to connect their thoughts during the performance to real-life situations and emotions after the performance. That is the power of live theatre!

Performance Fees

Performance fees are based on performance length, number of actors, travel distance and related expenses. ACT Out is committed to working with schools and organizations in helping to find funding solutions, including Title I, II or IV funding, and other opportunities for grants. Please call us to discuss your organization's individual circumstances and needs.

