

BLINDSPOT COLLECTIVE
PRESENTS

untold

A VERBATIM PLAY ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH



2019-2020 TOUR GUIDE

UNTOLD

1 in 4 Americans struggle with mental illness.

These are their stories.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Untold weaves music, movement, and excerpts from over one hundred interviews to explore the mental health crisis in America, where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate 46% of the population will struggle with mental illness at some point during their lifetime. This evocative meditation on hope and resiliency premiered in 2017 at the San Diego International Fringe Festival, winning the Jonathan Dunn-Rankin Award for New Work.

The show is the culmination of partnerships with local schools and organizations. In collaboration with several San Diego high schools - including the Army and Navy Academy, Canyon Crest Academy, Coronado School of the Arts, and Sage Creek High School - the creators of *Untold* collected interviews with social workers and therapists; individuals struggling with addiction, eating disorders, and personality disorders; veterans battling PTSD; and survivors of suicide, all conducted and recorded by local students. Stories from those interviews lay the groundwork for a show that provocatively portrays these individuals' bravery, vulnerability, and strength.

Every performance is immediately followed by a conversation with the artists and a presentation about mental health resources that are available in the local community.

Untold was developed with support from the California Arts Council and New York University.





COMMUNITY TOUR

To book a school or community performance of *Untold* in Spring 2020, please use the form on the last page of this document or email us at education@blindspotcollective.org.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

The program runs about 75 minutes and is best suited for high school students because of its mature subject matter. The maximum capacity for a school or community performance is 400 people. Show bookings are available April - May 2020.

In advance of each production, Study Guides will be provided to schools with post-show classroom activities that encourage dialogue and self-expression. A Resource Guide will also be provided for students or families who wish to learn more. All materials have been developed and reviewed in collaboration with local social workers and mental health professionals.

The cost of a single performance is \$1,000. A second performance on the same day and at the same site is \$850. If that cost is a hardship for your school or community, please contact us to learn about other funding opportunities.

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

"Verbatim theater is real. It isn't a story from someone's imagination like most plays. It is putting someone's life onstage so that people can relate to the story and feel empathy because this is real." -- 11th grade student

"I learned that you never know what things someone in your class or life could be struggling with." -- 9th grade student

"Please keep fighting for the lives and minds of the next generation. Thank you for the courage and conviction to tell the stories of a marginalized community that bears the scars of mental illness and addiction. Mental illness took my son's life but I heard his voice tonight." -- Adult Audience Member

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the success of program logistics as well as maximum student accessibility and engagement, the following set-up is suggested:

- An auditorium or large classroom space with 10 chairs that can be used during performance
- An audience not to exceed 400 people
- The presenters and actors should perform in an area with dimensions of at least 20 x 12 feet.
- An identified, private space for actors to change into costume.
- A sound system
- 1 wireless or handheld microphone (depending on the size and acoustics of the room)
- Movable chairs are ideal so that we may adjust the space as needed; but in row seating there should be aisles and adequate space for movement due to the interactive nature of the performance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Due to the sensitive subject matter of the performances, the school staff should actively support classroom control throughout the performance
- We strongly recommend that school counseling staff be present to support students
- Classroom teachers must be present with their class when attending the performance
- An additional adult per class, such as a parent or volunteer, is highly recommended
- A Study Guide with post-show discussion questions and activities will be provided
- A resource guide for students and community members will also be provided
- If booking a school performance, please make arrangements for a counselor or staff member to share additional resources that are available

For more information, visit www.blindspotcollective.org/untold or contact us directly at education@blindspotcollective.org.



In-School Performance Request Form

Please identify a coordinator or primary point of contact to coordinate all details including performance date and time:

Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address of school: _____

Please identify any specific classroom teachers who will be attending the performance:

Name _____ Grade ____ Email _____

Name _____ Grade ____ Email _____

Name _____ Grade ____ Email _____

Name _____ Grade ____ Email _____

Requested # of performances _____

Untold will tour in April or May 2020. Further details TBA.

Please indicate your preferred date/s and time/s:

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

Third Choice _____

- School agrees to pay deposit of \$100 per performance due upon reservation confirmation
- School agrees to pay a total of \$1,000 for first performance, and \$850 for each additional performance done on the same day
- School agrees to have classroom teachers present during the performance to offer support. Please note that an additional parent volunteer is also recommended.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send this form and all other questions
to education@blindspotcollective.org