

EDITOR'S NOTE

I started The Voices Project in 2009 as a classroom project to examine difference in society. I asked my students to interview people from stigmatized and misunderstood groups that crossed different races, religions, ethnicities, social classes, and more. My students wrote stories of their interviewees' lives and a faculty writing team integrated the stories into a staged reading program that was performed at the end of the semester to an audience of 300 people.

I did the project again in 2012 with a focus on physical disabilities such as deafness, blindness, spinal cord injury, stroke, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and more. The stories were integrated by a faculty writing team and performed at the end of the semester to an audience of 400 people. The program was recorded and aired on our regional PBS station (a link to the program can be found at www.misericordia.edu/voicesproject).

This past fall, I conducted **The Voices Project: Mental Health** with my colleague, Dr. Amanda Caleb. This time, 60 students interviewed people and family members of those with mental health conditions and their stories were integrated into a script by the original writing team including Rebecca Steinberger, Taylor Rupp, Melissa Sgroi, Amanda Caleb, Patrick Hamilton, Matthew Hinton, and Allan Austin. A cast of 21 actors performed these stories as a theatrical production at Misericordia University this past April to an audience of over 600 people.

This summer, with the guidance of dramaturg, Chris Phillips, I went back to the original stories and completely rewrote the script to provide a more in-depth portrayal of 14 stories capturing 9 mental health conditions. I am grateful to Peter Jensen and this cast for bringing these stories to life. A portion of the proceeds of this program are donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness to support their ongoing outreach to provide resources to those whose lives are touched by mental illness. For more information about The Voices Project, email me (Alicia Nordstrom) at voices@misericordia.edu or follow on facebook.com/MUVoicesProject.



MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY

301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612



August 15-16, 2017

Broadway Bound Theatre Festival
14th Street Y, New York, NY

Edited by Alicia Nordstrom • Directed by Peter Jensen

Scenes

Schizoaffective Disorder (This is My Life)

Written by Kelli Crockett

May..... Stephanie Seward

Introduction..... Alicia Nordstrom

A Day in the Life of an Alzheimer's Patient and His Caregiver

Written by Lexi Sasso

Maria..... Kate Whitney *

Tony..... Daniel Popowich *

Tourette's Syndrome (The Suspected Truth)

Written by Taylor Harnish, Sarah Mihalka, and Sean Morris

Lydia..... Anna Holbrook *

Christopher..... Kip Cesa

Michael..... Niles Gunning

Alcoholism (Catherine's Journey)

Written by Carmelina Tringali and Alicia Nordstrom

Catherine..... Jill Bianchini *

What You Don't Know about Eating Disorders

Written by Ian Anderson and Alicia Nordstrom

Ashley..... Kiyo Takami *

Bipolar Disorder

Written by Brittney Lahr, Faith Sinclair, and Kyra Spencer

Sierra..... Codie Lagotte

Ruth..... Kate Whitney *

Ana..... Stephanie Seward

PTSD

Written by Ryan Davis and Mario Delker

Joel..... Nnamudi Amobi *

Alex..... Josh Sienkiewicz

My Cool Brain

Written by Nick Lynch and Alicia Nordstrom

Isaac..... Gavin Stevens

Suicide

Written by Michael Turton

Oliver..... Dan Sturges

Finale..... Alicia Nordstrom

* appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity



Writing/Tech Crew

Dramaturg Consultant..... Chris Phillips

Tech Designer..... Abby Judd

Marketing Director & Graphic Designer..... Melissa Gordon



Special Thanks to

Lenore Skomal, Festival Director

Abby Judd, Festival General Manager

Emily Hewitt, Photographer

Misericordia University Faculty Research Grants Committee
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Jonathan Brassington

