



## Claude McNeal PRODUCTIONS

*Inspiring & transforming lives through  
the energizing power of theatre*

### **A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

If anything good can be said about this all-consuming pandemic that descended upon us in 2020, it is that a lot of people and organizations helped, and continue to help those hit the hardest, and for all of us who present our work before various audiences and schools, we are especially thankful.

This city opened its arms in many ways to ease the pain of the uncertainty that still haunts almost all Americans in one way or another. We are grateful to the Arts Council and City of Indianapolis, Lilly Endowment, the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, and the Indiana Arts Commission for their Covid-relief support that has allowed us to continue on with our work for the underserved youth of Central Indiana during this difficult time.

In the thick of it all, as schools and theatres were closing down; we spent time in developing new diversity, equity, and inclusion programming for the future, converted a new play created for the Indianapolis Bicentennial Celebration into a television documentary/filmed stage production with WFYI, and continued to build-back our audiences and program participants affected by the pandemic.

We couldn't be prouder of our hard-working staff of artists and educators, and through it all, our ACT Out social-issue theatre program was able to complete their randomized control trials to become evidence-based in 2021! We are excited for the new opportunities that this will bring to our organization.

As we begin a new year of programming, we are already seeing our program participant numbers rise. Thank you to our funders and program partners. Your continued support and collaboration means the world to us!

*Claude McNeal*

**CLAUDE MCNEAL**  
President & CEO

*Jeff Owen*

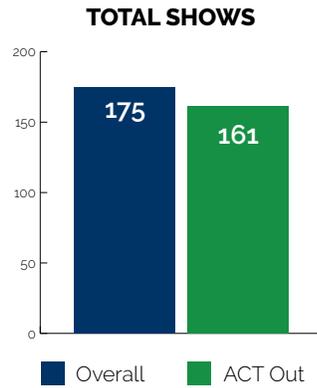
**JEFF OWEN**  
Chief Operating Officer

**2021**  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

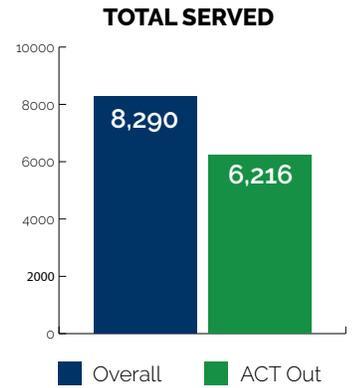


# 2021 by the Numbers:

## OVERALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

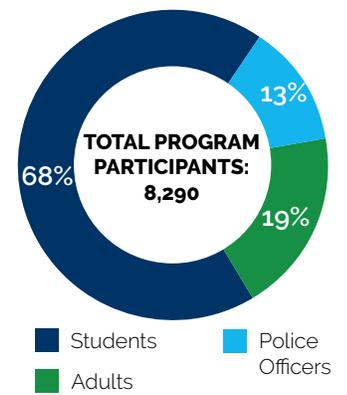
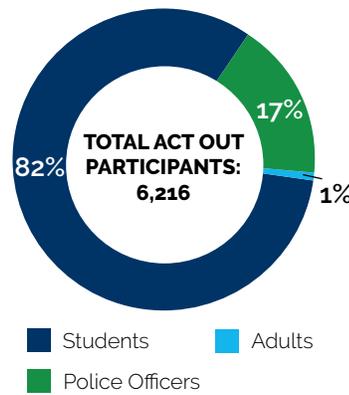


Represents a 49% increase in total shows and a 44% increase in ACT Out shows from 2020.

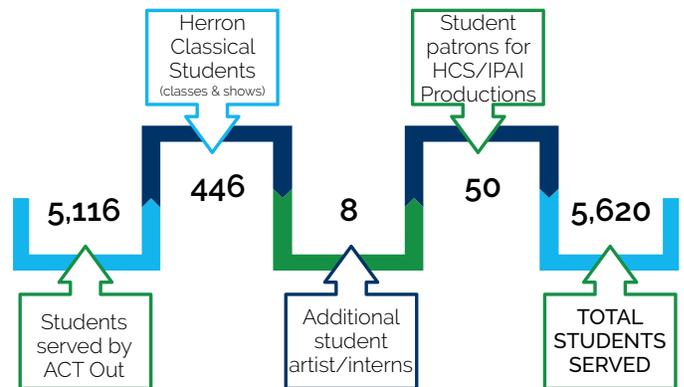


Represents a 97% increase in total served and a 71% increase served by ACT Out from 2020.

## TOTAL PARTICIPANTS



## YOUTH SERVED BY PROGRAMS



“ACT OUT represents peers educating peers, using artistic presentation as a tool. It’s a visual, interactive method that gets young people’s attention and makes them think.”

**NANCY MAYLAITH**  
 Director of Health Promotion  
 Purdue University



**175**  
 TOTAL SHOWS



**8,290**  
 TOTAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

# Our Programs

We serve a variety of artists, schools and communities to bring alternative educational theatre experiences to children and adults. Our programs serve to inspire future artists and patrons, build healthy relationships, and build character, while instilling a greater sense of self, of cooperation, and belonging to a larger society. All of our programs focus first on the underserved inner-city youth of Indianapolis, where both the concentration of at-risk students and need for immediate impact is greatest.

## ACT OUT

ACT Out, our largest outreach program, is our social-issue theatre troupe that travels and performs across Indiana using theatre as a catalyst for open discussion and creating awareness about social issues surrounding health and education. Helping to transform the lives of over 500,000 people, ACT Out addresses the most pressing and complex issues facing students and adults today and encourages them to embrace individualized solutions.



ACT Out became evidence-based in cyberbullying prevention in January 2021!

## YOUTH & THE ARTS

Youth and the Arts (YATA) provides students with opportunities to learn, practice and sharpen their theatre arts skills. Under the guidance of qualified artistic and academic professionals, students explore their creativity in a safe, honest and non-judgmental environment. Our YATA program provides classroom instruction during the school year and intensive summer performing arts workshops for high school students.



## INDIANA PERFORMING ARTS INITIATIVE

This professional summer theatre training program for high school and college artists features professional actors, directors, designers and choreographers working alongside students to round out a unique summer performing arts training opportunity for young theatre enthusiasts, working on and off the stage with the professional theatre company's annual Summer Stock production(s).



## HUMANITIES THEATRE PRESENTATIONS

These original, award-winning productions bring the Humanities to life! Providing an exciting, theatrical approach to traditional classroom teaching, these presentations inspire future generations of theatre enthusiasts to better understand and appreciate our world's history as cultures, inventions, music and literature come to life right before their eyes.



**5,620**

youth served in  
23 different schools

**1,595**

adults served

**1,075**

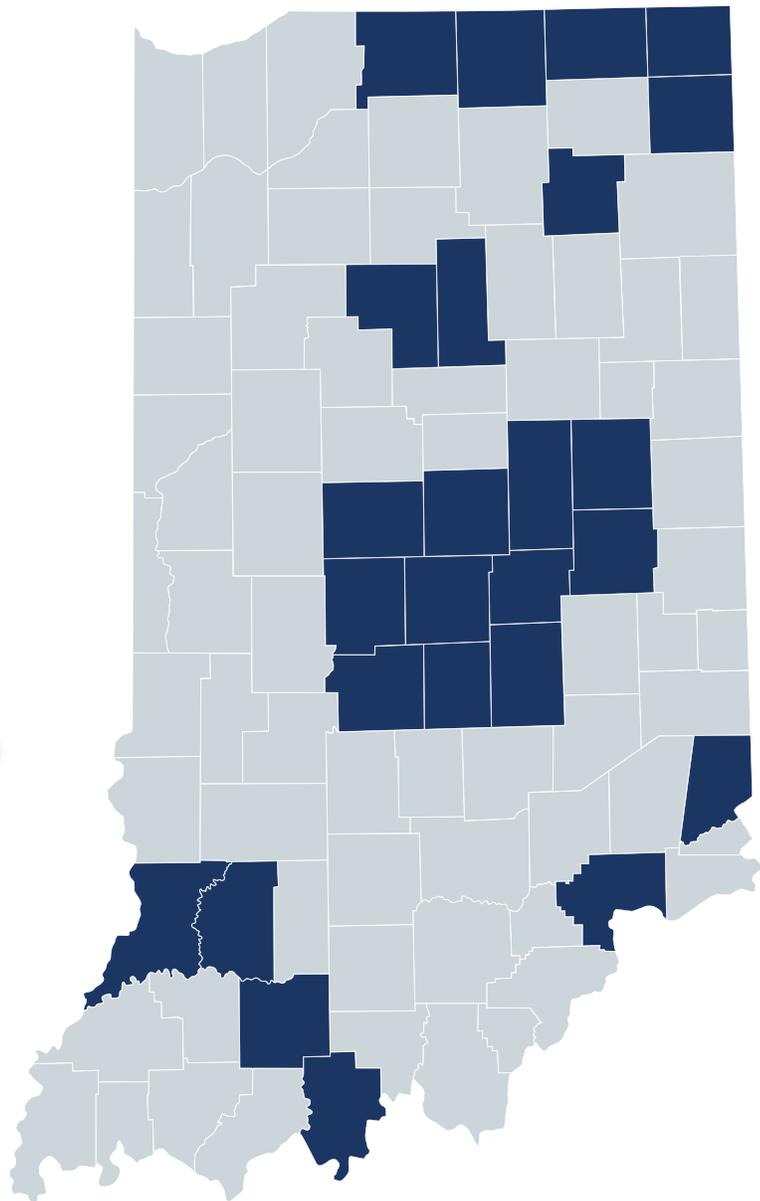
Indiana State Police  
officers served in 30  
state-mandated trainings  
across 15 different  
Indiana counties

2021 was the year ACT Out became evidence-based in cyberbullying prevention, when the results from our exhaustive 19-month randomized control trials were published in the *Journal for Medical Internet Research-Mental Health* online edition. This was a huge success for our program!



Full results published [here](#); however, **here are the highlights:**

- 20% reduction in incidents of cyber-bullying
- 97-100% fidelity rate.
- Strong positive responses from students, who saw the program as “engaging”, “interesting”, “not a waste of time.”
- A “turn-key” program with little or no prep time needed.
- The only program of its kind in the state of Indiana!



### COUNTIES SERVED

1. Marion
2. Hamilton
3. Hendricks
4. Morgan
5. Boone
6. Shelby
7. Hancock
8. Madison
9. Johnson
10. Cass
11. Dekalb
12. Daviess
13. Dubois
14. Perry
15. Steuben
16. Lagrange
17. Elkhart
18. St. Joseph
19. Knox
20. Delaware
21. Dearborn
22. Henry
23. Miami
24. Whitley
25. Jefferson

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

THE WASHINGTON POST

### The Results Are In!

18 schools were surveyed about ACT Out's programming over the last 6 months. Here's what they had to say:

**100%** - said they would use ACT Out again

**100%** - said the shows were age appropriate

**100%** - said the program engaged students in social/emotional learning

**86%** - said their students gained knowledge to assist with conflict resolution

**71%** - said their students were more socially aware of what leads to conflict

### CMP STAFF

Claude McNeal, President & CEO

Jeff Owen, Chief Operating Officer

Mary Lou Szczesiul, Associate Director & HCS Instructor

Zach Stonerock, ACT Out Director

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Katie Angel, HCS Instructor

Tina Sullivan, Strategy & Marketing Counsel

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John Ratzenberger, actor, television star of "Cheers"

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### DONATE TO CMP

Visit [claudemcnealproductions.com](http://claudemcnealproductions.com) and click on the "donate" button on the top right of our website. Make a secure donation through PayPal.

### JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We're on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter & Instagram. Follow us for updates!

### CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

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# Our 2021 Program Partners

Collaborations are critical to our outreach. Partnering with us in education and theatre programs throughout 2021 were the following organizations:

## PEACE LEARNING CENTER (PLC)

Now in its 15th year, elements of our partnership include the sharing of ideas and resources while providing 75 annual presentations on bullying and teasing, self-esteem building, teambuilding, peaceful conflict resolution, and the core topics associated with social & emotional learning.



## HERRON CLASSICAL SCHOOLS (HCS)

Our work with HCS (at Herron since its inception in 2006, Riverside since 2017, and Herron Prep since 2021) has been the perfect "laboratory" for some of the innovative programs we offer. Each year, we work with over 400 students in the theatre department, teaching beginning, intermediate and advanced theatre courses, as well as directing and mounting their annual productions.



2021 HCS presentation of "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"



2021 IPAI presentation of "She Kills Monsters"

## INDIANA DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (IDEA)

Since 2008, a health and human service initiative by the Indiana Drug Education Association has partnered ACT Out with the Indiana State Police to provide a unique way of presenting state mandated training for all new police officers in the areas of domestic violence, dealing with hazardous materials, SIDS, blood borne pathogens, mental illness, human trafficking, autism, de-escalation, and Alzheimer's. Each year, ACT Out works with up to 3,000 police officers.



## CHILDREN'S BUREAU, INC./DEPT. OF CHILD SERVICES

Since 2017, CMP has partnered with the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis and the Indiana Department of Child Services (Region 10) to provide much-needed, additional ACT Out programs to IPS and surrounding schools on the areas of abuse prevention, conflict-resolution, self-esteem building, and more.



# Our 2021 Sponsors

Our 2021 educational theatre programs were made possible by the following sponsors:

Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
Arts Council and the City of Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks  
Indiana Arts Commission  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Herron Classical Schools  
Sheila Fortune Foundation

Pacers Foundation  
John and Carolyn Mutz  
Downtown Optimists Foundation  
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