

Claude McNeal Educational Theatre - ACT Out Ensemble



About Us

Founded in 1995, ACT Out Ensemble has helped transform the lives of more than 500,000 people through the unique power of live social issues theatre. **ACT Out addresses the most pressing and complex issues facing students and adults today and encourages them to embrace individualized solutions.** This groundbreaking technique breaks down stereotypes and debunks social myths in a way that is innovative and impactful. By engaging audiences interactively, these programs have a greater and more lasting impact in a much shorter time than other methods.

What We Do

ACT OUT travels and performs across the state, using theatre as a catalyst for open discussion about social, health, and professional issues. ACT Out focuses on students, but our programming can be applied in professional settings as well. We have worked with law enforcement for nearly a decade training on situations such as domestic violence or dealing with Alzheimer's. Our shows are all original; they are researched in meetings with respected local health professionals and educators and then scripted through the use of improvisation by four to six actors.

When combined with traditional training strategies, our programs are an essential element of reinforcing lessons and retention through active discussion. In our student programming, eighty-five percent of students who participated in this type of experiential learning recalled what they learned and felt it assisted them with real-life situations they encountered afterward. In contrast, only 5-10% retained the same information from a lecture.

“Powerful and compelling messages packed into dynamic performances”

THE WASHINGTON POST

Contact Us

Zach Stonerock, Director
ACT Out Ensemble
c/o Claude McNeal Productions
1305 N. Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Office: 317.340.4258
Cell: 765-524-4451

Our Impact

ACT OUT works because it's live, improvisational theatre in which audience members become active participants. In the 30- to 45-minute show, the action often freezes in the midst of an issue, and the audience is asked to provide suggestions on how to resolve the current conflict before the play resumes. Audience members also become involved in a question-and-answer session at the end of each performance.

Professionals come away from ACT Out programs with an improved and increased understanding of the 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 those we serve.

Our programming has proven results among many audiences. Starting in 2015, ACT Out and Peace Learning Center worked with the Irvington Community High School freshmen class. As the only intervention in place at the school, we tracked behavior referrals before and after our work with this group. **School reports for behavior referrals dropped nearly 70% after our programs.**

At the Indiana Girls' School, a group of students receiving an intensive version of this program increased their group average grade from a D to a B. **They saw an 81% decline in serious negative behaviors, and 71% of participants re-enrolled in high school or prepared for their GED after being released** - the IDOC averages 36% for re-enrollment or GED. Only 7% of the participants had reentered the corrections system after a year, compared to an overall 40% recidivism rate.

The unique value of this experiential learning is key to ACT Out's success.

"Feedback received from both board and staff have expressed how much they enjoyed the interactive learning experience. I have highly recommended your group to several of my DEI colleagues who have inquired on diversity, equity, and inclusion training for their respective organization."

WARREN DUKES, PHD
VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY
AND INCLUSION
UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA

How Can We Help You?

ACT Out offers social issues theatre programming on a variety of subjects. We have unparalleled offerings in some particularly pressing issues facing today's professionals, including: safety, gun violence, alcohol and drug abuse, anger management, conflict resolution, men-tal health, domestic violence, and more.

Three or four actors from our ensemble can ideally serve 15 to 30 audience members in six sessions a day at one school.

The ACT OUT Difference



COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

Help professionals articulate their point of view and communicate more effectively



EXPLORE RESPONSES

Allow trainees to model and explore responses to a variety of situations in a safe environment



FOSTER HONESTY

Foster honest conversations about dealing with conflict



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Teach conflict resolution skills and company policies



PROBLEM SOLVING

Encourage collaborative problem solving