



# 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 today, and encourages students to embrace individualized solutions.** This groundbreaking technique breaks down stereotypes and debunks social myths in a way that is innovative and impactful. By engaging students 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 educational issues. ACT Out focuses on grades 4-8, but our student-centered programming can be applied at elementary, middle and high schools as well as colleges. 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 classroom-based learning strategies, our programs are an essential element of reinforcing lessons and retention through active discussion. 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

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# 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 students, including:



## **BULLYING, cyber-bullying**

*Follows Indiana Code 20-34-6-1 (under the anti-bullying and health and wellness standards)*



## **SOCIAL ANXIETY, self-esteem building**

*Follows Indiana Code 20-30-5-5 (under family / consumer science category)*



## **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

*Follows Indiana Code 20-30-5-7*



## **DATING VIOLENCE, 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*

**Other topics our programming addresses include:** Alcohol and drug abuse, anger management, eating disorders, conflict resolution, sexual assault, mental health, domestic violence, interview readiness, literacy, self-esteem, and more. Three or four actors from our ensemble can ideally serve 15 to 30 students in six sessions a day at one school.

## Our Impact

**ACT OUT works because it's live, improvisational theatre in which students become active participants.** In the 30- to 45-minute show, the action often freezes in the midst of an issue, and students are asked to provide suggestions on how to resolve the current conflict before the play resumes. Students also become involved in a question-and-answer session at the end of each performance. Even students who are too shy to speak can think and respond individually.

**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.

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.**

## 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