



# WALNUT STREET THEATRE



## Finding Your People

### Finding Your People

BY TOM QUINN

TOURING OUTREACH COMPANY

STUDY GUIDE

#### SHOW SYNOPSIS

This brand-new show follows two students as they search for connection in school. From the dreaded "Where do I sit in the cafeteria?," to "how can I be an individual and still part of a group?," we follow their journey as they look for acceptance and belonging. This show teaches students to celebrate each other's similarities and differences.

#### Group Activity: Human Barometer

##### Directions

Have your students spread out in the classroom (it's best if there is an open space). Tell them that they are going to be a human barometer. As you ask them questions, they will decide how much they agree or disagree. The right side of the room is 100% agree and the left side is 100% disagree. The students can choose anywhere in between. Refer to the list of example statements.



##### Discussion:

What did you notice? Did everyone agree on each statement or were there different opinions? Was there a big range?

##### Examples:

- Breakfast is the best meal of the day
- Science is my favorite class
- I get scared easily
- I'd like to live in another country
- Fall is my favorite season

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### BEFORE THE SHOW

1. What do you think *Finding Your People* will be about?
2. Have you ever felt different or like an outsider?
3. What is the most challenging part about the first day of school? Best part?
4. Which school subject do you struggle with? Which is your favorite?
5. Are you involved in any school activities, clubs, or sports?

### AFTER THE SHOW

1. What do you think the main message of *Finding Your People* is?
2. Do you think that there is a misconception of what it's like to be a high school student?
3. How often do you worry about what others think of you?
4. Do you think that it's important to be true to yourself and others?
5. What do you love most about yourself?

## THEATRE 101

### Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting what's written on the page up on its feet. Please review the following terms with your students:

**PLAYWRIGHT** The playwright writes the script.

**DIRECTOR** The director is in charge of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

**COSTUME** What the actors wear during the show.

**SCENERY** Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the setting, or where the story is taking place.

**PROPS** All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books and more!

**LIGHTS** Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

**SOUND** Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

**ACTORS** The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

**AUDIENCE** The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!



### AUDIENCE RULES

- ◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- ◆ Don't bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don't forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom before the show starts.



## Activity: "Who Am I?" Poem

### Help students learn something new about their classmates:

#### Materials:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Hat/ Basket

#### Directions:

Have each student write a brief poem about themselves. This can include their age, race, physical characteristics, hobbies, interests, strengths, weaknesses, etc. The poems can be written in any format they choose (free-verse, haiku, limerick, sonnet, acrostic).

1. Fold your poem into a small square and place in hat/ basket.
2. Each student grab a paper from the hat/ basket. Select a new paper if their own is chosen.
3. As students are reading the selected poem, have them write at the bottom:
  - *Something they learned about their classmate they didn't know before.*
  - *Anything that they may have in common with this classmate.*
4. Hang poems on wall or lay on desk for students to retrieve their written poems. Some may volunteer to read their poems and classmate responses aloud.

#### Talk About It

Explain how everyone is unique in their own way and that there is always something new to learn about one another. Ask: *Did you learn something new about one of your classmates? Did you find something that you have in common?*

#### Different forms of poetry:

**Free-verse:** does not require a rhyme scheme or meter.

**Haiku:** 3 non-rhyming lines. 1st and 3rd lines contain 5 syllables each and the 2nd contains 7 syllables.

**Limerick:** written in 5 lines with AABBA rhyme scheme.

**Sonnet:** 14 lines with two rhyming stanzas at the end.

**Acrostic:** the first letter of each line spells out a word.



## Group Activity: Trust Fall

### Directions

Trust is one of the themes discussed in *Finding Your People*. This activity will help your students build trust amongst each other. First, have your students get in groups of 3-4. Student A will stand in-front of Student B, C, & D, with their back to them. Once students B, C & D say “ready”, Student A will fall backwards into the students arms. The students must stand close enough to catch Student A and then rebalance them. Each group member should get a chance to be Student A.

### Variation

If your class is successful with the paired trust falls, have all students circle up in a tight circle. If there are more than 8 people, break the class into multiple groups. One student should be standing in the center of the circle. This student will fall back into the arms of the students forming the circle. The students forming the circle will pass the student in the center around the circle. The student in the center should not be holding up their own weight. The students forming the circle must be alert and close to the person next to them.



### Talk about it

- What was the purpose of this activity?
- Were you nervous as the person who was falling? How about as the person who was catching?
- Did you begin to trust your classmates as the activity progressed?

## Group Activity: Human Machine

### Directions

Have your students build a human machine! Start with one volunteer who will come up with their own gear/ part of the machine through a repetitive movement and sound. A second volunteer goes up next to the first student and adds on their own part to the machine. Continue to add students to the machine until there are 5 students total. Once the machine is fully assembled, tell the machine to slow down or speed up. Finally, tell the machine to crash. Go through this activity until all students have participated.

### Discussion

What did you learn from this exercise? Is individuality an important part to the whole of a “machine”? Why is each gear important? Were you working together as your machine sped up or slowed down? How else were you working together? How can this be applied to a classroom, sports team, after-school activity, group project, or even friendship?



## Activity: Draw It!

All of us perceive ourselves differently. In *Finding Your People*, Angela and Chance are learning to show who they really are, even if it may make them feel vulnerable.

Use the space below to draw a picture of how you perceive yourself as well as listing words that you think describe yourself.

Once the drawings are all complete, hang them all up to celebrate the class's similarities and differences!

## Activity: Act It Out

Below is a portion of the script from *Finding Your People*

Practice reading the script!

Read the scene in front of the class!

### LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:

Walnut Street Theatre  
ATTN: Education Department  
825 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Chance:** Hi.

**Angela:** Hi.

**Chance:** Sorry, I was coming down the steps with these books and fell.

**Angela:** I noticed.

**Chance:** Sorry.

**Angela:** It's no problem. I'm Angela.

**Chance:** Of course you are.

**Angela:** (*laughing and enjoying his reaction to her*) What?

**Chance:** I mean nice to meet you I'm... David.

**Angela:** You don't look like a David.

**James:** That's because he's not!

**Angelina:** What?

**Chance:** Some people call me David.

**James:** Actually only one person calls him David.

**Angelina:** Why did he say you're not David?

**Chance:** It's kind sorta not really my name.

**Angelina:** Then why did you say it was?

**Chance:** Because I want you to like me.

**Angelina:** And you think if I know your real name I won't like you?

**Chance:** Something like that.

**Angelina:** What's your real name?

**Chance:** Chance.

**Angelina:** Chance?

**Chance:** Chance.

**Angelina:** I like it. I gotta get to room 137.

**Chance:** I was just there. The teachers sent me to grab these books from another room when I tripped. I could show you where it is?

**Angelina:** I'd like that. Am I going with David or am I going with Chance?

**Chance:** You're going with me. I'm Chance.

**Angelina:** Good to meet you.

### TALK ABOUT IT

How did you feel about this scene?

Do you ever get nervous when you're talking to someone new?

What is the importance of being honest with someone?

Acting  
is believing  
in Yourself  
and in your  
Become a **craft.**  
believer.



# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## BIOGRAPHY

Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 36th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 55,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

The Walnut Street Theatre is celebrating over 30 years of bringing high-quality professional theatre to schools across the Delaware Valley. Our multi-cultural Touring Outreach Company introduces students to the world of theatre through age-appropriate, curriculum-based pieces that are socially relevant, entertaining, and exciting. Last season, 126,718 children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs.

### TOURING ACTORS

Each season, Walnut Street Theatre holds a nation-wide search to recruit accomplished young professionals for Acting Apprenticeships. These actors form our Touring Outreach Company. Nearly 500 candidates are considered each year for these four positions.



## WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**  
**EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE**  
**EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE**  
**RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST**  
**EDUCATION APPRENTICE**  
**ACTING APPRENTICES**

Tom Quinn  
Jasmine Hammond  
Amanda Pasquini  
Stephanie Sintef  
Emily Mattison  
Ali Walker  
Taylor Mitchell  
Katie Raulerson  
Kahlil Wyatt  
Blake Lowry

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### WEB

- **Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company**  
<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>
- **Drama Games for Kids**  
<http://www.bbbpress.com/dramagames/>
- **Anti- Bullying Website**  
<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>



## FINDING YOUR PEOPLE CREATIVE TEAM

**PLAYWRIGHT** Tom Quinn  
**DIRECTOR** Nate Golden

### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**Tom Quinn** is the author of *The Berenstain Bears Hospital Friends*, *The Return of Nick Nutrition and His Dog Fiber*, *Only 13*, *A Philly Phairy Tale*, *The Boy Who Cried Bully*, *The Bully Buster Rides Again*, *No Easy Road to Freedom*, *Martin and Malcolm*, *Freedom Riders*, *Mean Girls R Bullies 2*, *Hurry Up! Be Perfect!*, and *Finding Your People*. Quinn also serves as the Director of Education at Walnut Street Theatre overseeing a program that reaches over 126,000 students each year. Quinn was a recipient of the Dorothy Haas Acting Fellowship from Walnut Street Theatre in 1991-92. Tom also performed in regional theatre across the country before obtaining a teaching degree and Masters in Education from West Chester University, along with a Masters in Educational Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College. A former high school teacher and school administrator Quinn has also worked as a grant reviewer for the US Department of Education.

## THANK YOU

The Walnut Street Theatre Education Department gratefully acknowledges the support from the following:

Ash Family Foundation\* Bryn Mawr Trust Company \* Louis N. Cassett Foundation \* Connelly Foundation \* Covenant Bank \* Peter & Audrey Denton Fund \* William Goldman Foundation \* Hamilton Family Foundation \* Hassel Foundation \* Hellendall Family Foundation \* Herman Goldner Company \* Syde Hurdus Foundation \* William Penn Foundation \* Lincoln Financial Group Foundation \* M&T Bank/ Wilmington Trust \* National Endowment for the Arts \* PECO \* Philadelphia Insurance Companies \* PNC Arts Alive \* TD Charitable Foundation \* Theatre Forward \* United Way of Bucs County, Cumberland County, Capital Region, Delaware Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Greater Portland, and the Tri-State \* Universal Health Services \* Vulcan Spring & Mfg. co. \* The Walt Disney Company \*

### TOURING OUTREACH SPONSORS



# Walnut Street Theatre

## Educational Opportunities!

2018-2019  
SEASON

### WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

*Bring a show to your school!*

The Big, Bad Bullysauros

Finding Your People

The Tale of Sasquatch

Freedom Riders

*Open a dialogue with students about issues  
that affect them!*

Call 215-574-3550 , ext. 584

### Walnut Street Theatre for Kids!

*Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre!*

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (December)

Aladdin Jr.

GOOSEBUMPS: Phantom of the Auditorium

Pinkalicious

Fly Guy

**Tickets just \$15-\$18!**

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!



### *The Theatre School at* WALNUT STREET THEATRE

*Classes for kids, students, and adults!*

For students from 5 to 105! Great for networking,  
providing a creative outlet, and professional training.

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

### RESIDENCY PROGRAM

*Let us design a dramatic and  
educational program for your school!*

We support teacher's objectives with  
personalized programs that meet your needs  
and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 511

# When we PLAY, Learning Happens!