

# FAR FROM THE HEART

Sheatre

A dating violence prevention program teaching teens about rape, sexual assault and safe relationships.



## crucial conversations a rehearsal for reality

51% of Canadian women experience at least one incident of physical or sexual violence.

63% of sexual assaults reported to police involve girls under the age of 18.

A play, Far From the Heart, is the core of this award-winning dating violence prevention program. It is supported by a comprehensive educational package that uses interactive discussions, an educational guide, teacher training, and in-class activities to send the message and to assist in the delivery of the core curriculum in the areas of sexual health and violence prevention.

**For students  
in grades 7 and up.**

### **The Story Line:**

The girls and guys are concerned about image, popularity, and sexual conquest at The Big Party. Felicity's judgment is clouded by alcohol and inexperience. She finds herself first tormented by her controlling boyfriend, and then raped by the guy who seemed to want to help her.

What can Felicity do to stand up for herself and avoid having unwanted sex? Can her best friend help her? Will you?

"The value of this type of presentation is immeasurable. It is a fresh and exciting way to deliver the material in a manner that is accessible and relatable for the youth and adult members of our community... I think the success of this program would be a great asset to our community and our province."

Jodi Nelson, Counsellor/Public Educator, Envision Counselling and Support Centre, Estevan, Sask.

✦ Ontario Ministry of The Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction

## Curriculum and Policy

The content of the play, the activities and the conversations focus on core curriculum and exercise higher level thinking. Far From the Heart was developed with students and with input from educators and social service providers. Some of the curriculum and policy links include:

### Health:

Grades 8 - 10

focuses on understanding sexuality, body image, gender roles, interpersonal relationships, and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values related to identity and relationships

### Healthy Living:

demonstrates, in a variety of settings, the knowledge and skills that reduce risk to personal safety; fosters life skills; engages inquiry based decision making; uses concrete strategies to help students develop decision-making skills

### Society:

explores gender issues and language, bullying, alcohol misuse, conflict and change

### Arts Education and Drama:

Grades 11 -12

exposes the participants to a unique form of theatre - forum theatre - and a new application which is internationally recognized as innovative and ground-breaking; a play which originated in workshops with youth shows the social and cultural impact of the arts



"I cannot imagine an investment that has the potential to impact so many students within Bluewater and provide our staff with the necessary resources to tackle the crucial conversations that must take place related to relationship issues."

Mary Anne Alton, Former Director of Education (retired), Bluewater District School Board, Ontario

wow omgg!!  
It was totally awesome!! Me and all my friends really enjoyed the interactions and just the whole thing.. good job you guys and good work  
:D

Student (from Facebook)

### Safe Schools:

explores gender-based violence; fosters understanding and respect; addresses barriers to reporting; opens conversation

120 - 150 students per show preferred. Some flexibility possible. Also suitable for public presentations.

## Coming to you in 2013

**\$800**

includes show, discussion groups, educational guide, teacher orientation

We're building demand to bring the program to schools in your area.

### Contact:

Joan Chandler  
[sheatre@sheatre.com](mailto:sheatre@sheatre.com)  
519-534-3039



Intervention: A student steps into the action, replacing an actor and taking on the role of a character to change the situation and solve the problem. The Joker debriefs with the audience.

## Forum Theatre problem solving skills

Far From the Heart, developed in collaboration with a group of teens under professional direction, aims to help youth recognize the different forms of pressure and violence in dating relationships, and explores the issues that lie beneath this behavior.

The play presents problematic scenarios that end in a dilemma to deliberately stimulate audience members into action. Forum Theatre is a type of **interactive theatre** created by the innovative and influential practitioner Augusto Boal as part of what he called his "Theatre of the Oppressed". In this

process the audience members can stop a performance, often a short scene in which a character is being oppressed in some way. The audience suggests different actions on-stage in an attempt to change the outcome. As a result, people gain knowledge useful in everyday life to resolve conflicts, negotiate relationships and avoid risk, and thereby gain problem-solving skills.

A half-hour **discussion group with professional counselors and peer facilitators** immediately follows the show.

**Teachers** are integral contributors, preparing students in advance, and then helping them integrate the information.

# your students' ideas our program format

**The Full Program** includes the following components.

## Step One: Preparation

- teacher and facilitator teleseminar training
  - review the show, activities and the Educational Guidebook filled with resources and engaging lesson plans.
  - learn what to do if a student reports an assault.
- in-class preparation and interactive discussions led by teachers in the days before the show

## Step Two: Presentation

- theatre forum presentation (about **90 minutes**):
  - 5 minute introduction by The Joker: includes the “rules of engagement”
  - 20 minute scripted play performance layered with problems
  - 60 minute forum with audience improvisation and interactions to solve the problems, facilitated by Joker
  - 5 minute final wrap by Joker
- post-show discussion with social workers from community agencies and peer group youth leaders (**30 minutes**) connects students with local resources as they process the play and express ideas

## Step Three: Integration

- vital in-class post-show activities, led by teachers in the days following the show, set the students in motion to create and organize their own anti-violence endeavours, integrating, applying and extending their learning, and helping to build a safe, healthy, and compassionate environment.

**Maximum Audience Size for Full Program  
~ 150 students**

**Far From the Heart  
has reached thousands of students  
since 2006**

**[www.farfromtheheart.com](http://www.farfromtheheart.com)  
(see the movie and interact online)**

**“The scenario, the dialogue, the action, could all have ‘viewer discretion advised’ warnings, but that’s the point. It makes you squirm in your seat. It makes you think.”**

**Scott Woodhouse, reporter, The Meaford Express and an impressed parent of a student in the audience**

**“The production was nothing short of wonderful. Without self-consciousness, topics long dormant sprang back to life again. Beneath the laughter and delight of watching scenes unfold and remix, the more serious side of the message reached its goal.”**

Jan Kielven  
Positive Climates for Learning Specialist  
Curriculum and Instructional Services  
York Region District School Board

## Sheatre your partner in meeting your educational goals

Sheatre is a groundbreaking community arts organization based in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

We are the proud recipients of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction (2008), the Bluewater District School Board's commendation for Excellence in Education (2009) and The City of Owen Sound Cultural Award for Theatre (2010). Artistic Director Joan Chandler is the recipient of the inaugural Phil Hartman Arts and Humanitarian Award (2010).

Since 1985, Sheatre has produced and co-facilitated over 90 community-based plays and interactive theatre forum presentations to almost 70,000 people in Canada, Europe and the US.

At our heart are dynamic, interactive workshops in an array of media. We bring professional artists and tools to stimulate your students expression of their ideas, values and concerns. We have the capacity and skills to provide your students with a quality experience in a safe environment.

# Far From the Heart supporters and community partners



## THE GEORGE LUNAN FOUNDATION



Joan Chandler, Artistic Director  
170069 Centre Rd., R.R. #1  
Kemble, Ontario, N0H 1S0  
519-534-3039

Charitable Registration # BN 14003 8134 RR0001

