



FY17 AFT EDUCATION IMPACT REPORT



**About Face Theatre
Education Staff**

Education & Outreach Director
Ali Hoefnagel

Education Coordinator
Kieran Kredell

Lead Teaching Artist
Donny Acosta

About Face Theatre Staff

Managing Director
Alana Parvey Zalas

Interim Operations Manager
Em Hall

Director of Institutional Giving
Benjamin Sprunger

Director of Individual & Major Giving
David John Toropov

Marketing Coordinator
James Anthony Chapman

About Face Theatre: Education

About Face Theatre creates exceptional, innovative, and adventurous theatre and educational programming that advances the national dialogue on sexual and gender identity, and challenges and entertains audiences in Chicago and beyond.



To further AFT's mission and advance dialogues regarding sexual and gender identities, About Face Theatre's Education Department offers three main programs: **Outreach, Youth Task Force & About Face Youth Theatre.**

ABOUT FACE YOUTH THEATRE



"I've always taken pride in the work I do with About Face. The work we do and art we put out is so crucial to developing and informing others on issues within the community."

*Jimbo, AFYT member,
age 18*



About Face Youth Theatre is an identity-affirming theatre activism program. LGBTQIA youth and their allies ages 14-23 explore and expand the boxes we use to define our intricate intersections of race, nationality, gender, and sexuality.

AFYT BY THE NUMBERS

17

Number of youth participants in 2016-2017

18

Average age of participants

56

% of participants that identify as POC

66

% of participants that identify as transgender/gender non-conforming

38

% of participants that are current high school students

38

% of participants that are current college students

What does AFYT mean to you *as an artist/activist?*

100

% of participants agreed/strongly agreed they have a stronger sense of their own point of view as an artist and activist after working with AFYT this year, and feel they can more confidently make artistic choices that reflect this point of view and their own unique voice.

100

% of participants strongly agreed they will continue to make choices outside of AFYT that express their own artistic and activist point of view.



"Working with AFYT made me connect past events to current problems and injustices (ability to find differences and similarities in past & present societies), and also made me more aware of my own white privilege"

-Liv, AFYT Member, age 17

"I definitely feel I have the drive and language/vocab to educate others. I am now more understanding of my own politics."

-Sandy, AFYT member, age 18



more thoughts from the ensemble



"I used to be the shy quiet one in the corner. But I feel like I found my voice here."

-Sharon, AFYT member, age 20

"I felt more alone and stranded than I do now. I have found a safe and accepting space and it's really helped me figure out my identity."

-Jude, AFYT member, age 14

"Before AFYT I was having a serious identity crisis and wasn't sure I wanted to even do the arts anymore. AFYT reminded me I still have something to offer the world."

-Ophelia, AFYT member, age 23



What does AFYT mean to you *as an individual?*

100

% of participants agreed or strongly agreed they have improved their self management skills after working with AFYT.

100

% of participants strongly agreed the self management skills they gained though AFYT will carry over into life at school, work, and home.

100

% of participants agreed or strongly agreed they have developed and maintained positive and supportive relationships with their fellow ensemble members.

100

% of participants strongly agreed the relationship-building skills they developed with AFYT will carry over into their relationships at school, work, and home.

BRAVE LIKE THEM

Brave Like Them, the 2017 world premiere from AFYT, investigated the underground "riot grrrl" movement of the 1990s. While the music and literature of this movement was typically characterized by an unapologetic expression of female power and an aggressive dismantling of the patriarchy - the voices at its forefront were almost exclusively white and middle-class.

Brave Like Them celebrated the "riot grrrl" movement for all the good that came out of it - but also dissected its inherent racial and class discrepancies.



Presented at the Pride
Films & Plays **Pride
Arts Center**

Number of
performances: **10**

The Press

"The show sensitively and accessibly explores the tensions between young people's passion to create a better world and their need for individual self-affirmation and peer approval."

-Albert Williams, *Chicago Reader*

"About Face Theatre's ensemble of earnest, young actors, and the artists who support their production, are to be highly commended for their gumption and talent. They've clearly worked very hard to shine a light on an important social and political issue."

- Colin Douglas, *Chicago Theater Review*

“Thank you so much for today! The performance was beautiful, and I enjoyed it immensely. Thank you especially for what you said to the young man that shared his experience about coming out - I was surprised he allowed himself to be so vulnerable because he isn't often like that even in our GSA meetings. The performance resonated with him, myself, and I'm sure many others in the room. AFT is a credit to humanity”

-Kristian Coerper, Teacher at Kenwood Academy



Outreach



The Education Outreach Program at About Face Theatre provides touring performances and workshops to schools as an entertaining, compelling, and necessary approach to starting dialogue about bullying, diversity, and intersecting identities.

The Show

looking out // looking in

30 min play & interactive discussion

Hilarious, relevant, and poignant, looking out // looking in is a collection of stories that connects issues around race, class, sexuality, age, gender, and self-esteem. The play features the true stories of the performers and the audience is encouraged to ask the actors about their stories and share experiences. This play speaks specifically to transgender identity and allyship.

Our standard format includes a performance followed by a talk-back; however we do offer more in-depth break-out discussion sessions or hands-on storytelling workshops with the audience following the performance.

Outreach Numbers

36

Number of performances in FY17 (up from 34 in FY16)

16

Number of schools reached in FY17

11

Number of CPS performances in FY17

5,710

Number of students, teachers, and community members reached in FY17

"Thank you and your colleagues so much for providing such a meaningful, uplifting, thought-provoking performance. I have heard nothing but positive responses, including how personally moved several of us were. One person wrote, "It strengthened my resolve to make sure everyone at HCSC [Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL] has a voice."

-Adam Richter, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois

YOUTH TASK FORCE



Youth Task Force

The **Youth Task Force** (YTF) is AFYT's youth leadership committee, comprised of 2 ensemble members who are committed to the group's work. YTF leads the AFYT ensemble by selecting show topics/themes, facilitating workshop activities, organizing social excursions, and curating a special event each year.

Collaborations

This year, the YTF also spearheaded a number of artistic collaborations with local youth-driven arts organizations, including:

*Intuit Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art

*Goodman Theatre's "Good Eddie"

*Free Street Theater

Youth Artivism Symposium

For FY17's special event, the YTF reprised their **Youth Artivism Symposium** (YAS). Now in its third year, the event brought together over 30 young and socially engaged artists of diverse mediums and backgrounds (up 5 from last year's event) to Adler University's downtown campus to share practices and celebrate artmaking for social justice.



The YTF-created advertising for YAS 2017



THANK YOU!

Your ongoing support makes our critical work possible.

www.aboutfacetheatre.org

(773) 784-8565

<https://www.facebook.com/aboutfaceyouththeatre>

Photo Credits:
Emily Schwartz
Timmy Samuel
Ali Hoefnagel
Kieran Kredell

©About Face Theatre 2017

“As the years go by, I have so much to owe to About Face in my development as a person and artist. Knowing my importance as a queer person of color.”

-Jimbo, AFYT member, age 18