



ENOUGH!
PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

WIOX-FM 91.3
WIOXradio.com
MTC Cable
Channel 20

PRESENTS:



Project Director: Michelle Macau

Technical Director: Erwin Karl

Panel:

Sgt. Tyler McAteer, Delaware County Sheriff's Office

Ellen Stewart, Counselor, Art Therapist & Author

Arnie Schwartz, Guidance Counselor (Retired)

Contributions collected at this evening's event will support.
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Central New York

The Cast

A Call for Help by Pepper Fox

Brad Johnson	Gary Falk
Ronnie Moore.....	PC Van Tassel
Bill Mast.....	Paul Eisemann
Cameron Gains.....	Brandon Hargrove
Sierra Draffen.....	Rebecca Newman
Martha Hernandez	Lisa Ruth Mays

The Smiles Behind by Niarra C. Bell

Lay.....	Maya Raffaele
Jefferson	Paul Eisemann
Kay	Brandon Hargrove

PANEL DISCUSSION

Lightning Strike by Amanda Fagan

Hallie at 17	Rebecca Newman
Hallie at 27	PC Van Tassel
Hallie at 30	Lisa Ruth Mays
Hallie at 40	Rebecca Newman

The Matter at Hand by Valentine Wulf

Claudette Latete.....	Rebecca Newman
Janko Kostic	Paul Eisemann
Cesar Mendoza.....	Gary Falk

PANEL DISCUSSION

No Prospering Weapons by Justin Cameron Washington

Up-and-coming (Isaiah)	Lisa Ruth Mays
Down-and-falling (Smith Wesson)	Gary Falk

A Disorderly House by Sam Lee Victor

Diane	PC Van Tassel
Jack.....	Paul Eisemann

PANEL DISCUSSION

Director/Stage Directions	Michelle Macau
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Playwrights

Niarra C. Bell, *The Smiles Behind* (she/her, Virginia) is a recently graduated 17-year-old from Virginia with an intense passion for the performing arts. Niarra has experience in acting, directing, and backstage technical work. Niarra hopes that her play will help bring a different perspective on gun violence to her community as she has seen the problem grow worse in recent years. Niarra believes that, even if her play reaches only one person, she has helped the movement against gun violence. Niarra would like to thank God first for giving her the idea for the play and the inspiration to write. Next, Niarra would like to thank her parents, family, and friends for all of their support. Special thanks go to her mom who was always willing to stay up with Niarra while she wrote *The Smile Behind*. Finally, Niarra would like to thank her teacher and mentor Mrs. Tracy Boume as she is the one who encouraged Niarra to write and submit *The Smiles Behind* to the ENOUGH! contest. Niarra is extremely grateful for this opportunity and the experience. *The Smiles Behind* is Niarra's playwriting debut.

Amanda Fagan, *Lightning Strike* (she/her, Montana) is a senior at West High School in Billings, Montana. She started writing when she was six years old and never stopped. Ever since, she has spent the vast majority of her free time crafting worlds and stories that she might never write. She has dreamt of being a published author since she was seven and made a goal to be published before she graduated high school. When she is not attempting to write the next Great American novel, she can be found rewatching *Barry*, listening to *Starkid* musicals, and reading books about World War II. She intends to study history and creative writing at the University of Montana in Missoula. *Lightning Strike* marks Amanda's debut as a playwright.

Pepper Fox, *A Call for Help*, (she/her, Kentucky) is a visual arts student at DuPont Manual from Louisville, Kentucky. Pepper took a playwriting class for the first time, and she fell in love with it. She loves to write down words that can impact people as well as find like-minded individuals who love to interact with the arts in all forms as well.

Sam Lee Victor, *A Disorderly House* (he/him, New Jersey) is a playwright and actor currently studying acting at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). When he is not in the middle of nowhere in North Carolina, he lives just outside of New York City (in other words, New Jersey). His monologue, *Nameless*, won the Silver Ear in the Hear Me Out Monologue Competition in 2022 and has been published by Smith & Kraus. His play, *Just Like That*, was a semifinalist in The Blank Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival in 2022. His work was also produced by the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival in 2023, where he was named the winner of their Young Voices competition.

Playwrights

Justin Cameron Washington, *No Prospering Weapons* (he/him, Michigan) uses writing to tell stories that address a lack of representation. A little over a year ago, Justin created the titled *JUScreatedbycam* to act as a somewhat blank canvas for his creations while in high school. These creations have included performance, photo and video production, and design. But the main outlet that Justin embraces is writing. Justin's first ever piece published was titled, *please don't mind my mind*, through his participation in Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit, which spoke on the issues of youth mental health. Justin challenges himself with every piece to continue to grow in personal improvement and hopes that he can make an impact on anyone that comes across his work.

Valentine Wulf, *The Matter at Hand* (she/her, Washington) is fascinated by nuclear war, Armageddon, and pink plastic lawn flamingos. Her first play, *Welcome to the Landfill*, was produced by Penguin Productions in 2022, and she made her directorial debut with a 1950s sitcom-musical adaptation of *Macbeth* in 2023. She collects vintage Barbies and enjoys borscht. She writes with assistance from a magic bowling ball named Kathy who can see the future.

Actors

Paul Eisemann Part of Paul's attraction to theater is its illumination of humanity. He is honored to bring to life the words of these talented emerging playwrights. Paul applauds their work and thanks them for it. There have always been stories that needed to be told. These plays are a perfect example of that.

Gary Falk is married and lives in Willow NY. He has been active in community theater productions for more than 50 years. He recently appeared in a filmed production of *Romeo and Juliet* at Opus 40 in Saugerties where he played the roles of Friar John, the apothecary, Peter the nurse's man, and Montague, the father of Romeo. He is currently preparing to play the role of the Narrator in the Maud Adams Theatrical Hub's upcoming production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in February 2024.

Brandon Hargrove was raised in Southern California then transplanted to New York State in 2002. He began local theater starting with The Open Eye in 2004, helping do tasks for *Freddy The King of Detective* and acting in *Tartuffe*. He played the role of Danny in *Not for Sale* by Ev Ellsworth at the Roxbury Arts Group. Brandon participated on past Open Eye Harvest Brunch Auctions. Now living in Woodstock area since 2007, he has acted for Byrd-on-a-Cliff outdoor productions of William Shakespeare's plays *As You Like It* and *Measure for Measure*. He began as constant stagehand and acted for The Performing Arts of Woodstock since 2011 on.

Lisa Ruth Mays was born in LA and was introduced to the performing arts at an early age. Her mother took her to the local dance studio where she studied ballet and tap, performing in numerous recitals. She also studied ballet at the American School of Ballet on Hollywood Blvd. and was the youngest member in the Jazz Studio of Robert Banas. Lisa moved to the SF Bay area after completing a degree in Vocal Performance and sang, “A life full of incredibly wonderful music,” including performances with Berkely Opera, the Oakland Opera, and San Jose Civic Light Opera in *Evita*. With an interest in the scholarly study of Theology, Lisa earned two post graduate degrees and has served as an Ordained Minister for over 20 years. Recently retired, she now has time to engage in many things she loves – teaching fitness and ballet, taking Yoga, playing her piano and the six productions she has worked on at The Open Eye Theater.

Rebecca Newman lives in Margaretville with her very energetic Jack Russell (Gibson) and her husband, Thom, and family. She has appeared in several Open Eye productions, *John Chapman and the Devil (Witch)*, *Conference of the Birds (Hoopoe)*, *Summertree (Mom)*, *Our Town (Emily Webb)*, and *Fidelio (Princess)*. For Performance Plus in Stamford: *Motherhood Out Loud (Aunt Sponge)* and *Doing it in Delco (various roles)*. She appeared in *Anne of Green Gables (Marilla)* at the Wieting Theater in Worcester, NY, worked with the Historical Society of Middletown as Beth Osborne in the Cemetery Tours and WIOX Radio Theater plays.

Maya Raffaele is a 13-year-old bookworm who loves writing, drawing and baking. She spends many hours of the day singing opera and Queen songs, and suddenly breaking into the various characters that she has created, from an English aristocrat to a cockney street urchin to a desperate Southern Belle, and more. Maya was an extra in *Pagliacci* and sang in the Festival of the Voice opera choir in two productions. She has performed Shakespeare plays at New Genesis Productions and was Younger Joanna for The Open Eye Theater’s *Thunder Mountain* in 2022.

PC Van Tassel is an independent artist, writer, and performer. Stage credits include off-Broadway tour of *Finnegan’s Farewell*; NYC at The Treehouse Theater and Dramatist’s Guild, as well as numerous regional performances- many with The Open Eye Theater. A member of ASCAP, Van Tassel’s albums include *White Coat Consequences (2022)*, *Hope and Fear (2017)* and *Quiet Christmas (2016)*. Paintings and drawings have been in numerous National and Regional Juried shows and her scientific illustrations have been published in books and papers. She is a graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and now lives in the northern Catskill mountains where she daily wishes for world peace.

Panel

Sgt. Tyler McAteer works for the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, was born and raised in Delaware County and has been an officer in law enforcement for eight years.

Ellen Stewart is a licensed, board-certified Art Therapist/Counselor who has worked in the area for 25 years. She is the author of the book [Mental Health in Rural America](#) (Routledge Publishing), as well as several other books. She is passionate about mental health issues, particularly for rural areas.

Arnie Schwartz is a retired guidance counselor, 1965-1998 New Jersey, Japan, and Andes (2000-2005). Board membership: Roxbury Arts Group 1998-2000; WIOX Radio, 2015-present; Margaretville Memorial Hospital, Board; 2015-present, Chair 2020-2022; Co-founder of Catskill Addiction Coalition (CAC) now Catskill Pathway to Recovery (CPR) 2018-2023, WIOX Radio host (Talk the Town) 2012-present. Husband, father and grandfather (Papa).

Production

Erwin Karl (Technical Director/WIOXFM Engineer) has designed and operated lights and sound, designed and built sets, and served as technical director for many productions at The Open Eye, and for outdoor productions throughout the Catskills. He built the walkway extension from The Open Eye Theater building to the back parking lot. He has appeared on stage in numerous Open Eye productions. He is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for The Open Eye. Other activities include co-hosting the Farm Hour and The Open Eye Theater's Playtime on WIOX Radio in the Catskills (91.3FM) and serving as a volunteer or trustee for a number of other non-profit organizations based in the Catskills.

Michelle Macau (Project Director/Stage Directions) worked to present the ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence with The Open Eye Theater in 2022. Heartfelt thanks to the artists for generously giving of their talent and time.

Produced by special arrangement with ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence, Michael Cotey, Joaquin Oliver Artistic Producer. An anthology of the plays may be purchased from Playscripts at Playscripts.com.

History

The Open Eye Theater, marking the 51st year of new play production, was founded in New York City as Theater of the Open Eye in 1972, by the late famed dancer-choreographer, Jean Erdman, and her husband, the renowned mythologist, Joseph Campbell. Re-named The Open Eye Theater, it relocated to the Catskill Mountains in 1994, where, under the leadership of Artistic Director, Amie Brockway, it performed in eighteen villages and hamlets before creating a permanent home for theater in Margaretville, NY, in 2006.

Mission

The mission of The Open Eye Theater is to produce high quality theater performances and other educational programming for a diverse population in the Catskill Mountain Region and beyond - enriching the quality of life for theater artists, students, and audiences of all ages.

Special Thank You

Arnie Schwartz; Rene Stratton, Program Coordinator at the Delaware County Department of Public Health; Karen Heisig, Area Director, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Central New York; Superintendent Michelle Osterhoudt and Kristin Vignona, Margaretville Central School; Farm Hour hosts Madalyn Warren, Ellen Wong, and Erwin Karl, and Mark Birman Sports host Mark Birman for giving up their show time to allow this simulcast of ENOUGH! on WIOX 91.3FM Roxbury; Darlene DeMaille for assistance with flyers and program; Erwin Karl, and to the cast & panel members for their time and support.

"This is *precisely* the time
when artists go to work.
There is no time for despair,
no place for self-pity, no
need for silence, no room
for fear. **We speak, we write,
we do language.** That is
how civilizations heal."

T O N I M O R R I S O N



Nationwide Reading Action Items

ENOUGH! has teamed up with Team ENOUGH, the youth-led and youth-serving program of Brady United, to provide you with 3 simple action items you can do before you even leave the theater:

1

Send a Message to Congress NOW!

Scan the QR code to the right and fill out the form to send a message to your senators and representative urging them to support gun safety policies.



2

Say "ENOUGH!" on Social Media!

Why are you saying ENOUGH to gun violence? Share a video using #ENOUGH to tell us what drives you to take action and why others should join you! Don't forget to tag @enoughplaysproject (X: @enoughplays) & @teamenough so we can help amplify your message. *Bonus: Tag your elected officials so they can hear from you directly!*

3

Commit to Longer Term Action!

Are you ready to take action around preventing gun violence? Scan the QR code to join a Team ENOUGH (under 26) or Brady (26 and older) for a virtual info session to learn more about the different ways you can engage and volunteer.



UNDER 26



26 AND OLDER

ENOUGH!

PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

ABOUT ENOUGH!

Founded in 2019 by director Michael Cotey, **ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence (enoughplays.com)** calls on teens to confront gun violence by creating new works of theatre that will spark critical conversations and inspire meaningful action in communities across the country. Our mission is to promote playwriting as a tool for self-expression and social change, harnessing this generation's spirit of activism and providing a platform for America's playwrights of tomorrow to discover and develop their voices today. Now in its third year, ENOUGH! has received nearly 600 short plays by teen writers tackling gun violence. More than 100 organizations have participated in ENOUGH!'s two previous Nationwide Readings in 2020 and 2022, involving nearly 2,000 artists and reaching more than 10,000 people. ENOUGH! has been covered by international press outlets PBS NewsHour, NPR, and BBC. ENOUGH! is the recent recipient of the Goldin Foundation Exemplary Project Award. ENOUGH! is sponsored by Change the Ref, The Dramatists Guild of America, Playscripts and Broadway Licensing, and The Kennedy Center.

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& X/Twitter **@enoughplays**

Audience Guide:



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<https://dl.orangedox.com/enough23audience>



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Winner of

AATE's Sara Spencer Award 2015 for Artistic Achievement
Berilla Kerr Award for work on new American Plays
Prestigious Aurand Harris Grant from the
Children's Theatre Foundation of America

Nominated for the Orlin Corey Medallion Award for Artistic Excellence 2021

Theater staff:

Amie Brockway, Artistic Director
Michelle Macau, Associate Artistic Director
Bo Elfving, Managing Director
Erwin Karl, Technical Director and Building Manager
Carol Schwartz, Education Director
Darlene DeMaille, Administrative Assistant

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