

A Note On Joe Who?

In June of 2001 the WCB approached our theatre department expressing an interest in creating a dramatic presentation based on the safety of young workers. The presentation was to be used as an educational tool to help educate young workers on their rights and responsibilities on the job site.

Over the next few months the framework for the project was developed. We met with members from the WCB, who gave us the facts that they wanted included in the performance. They also gave us binders and binders full of statistics and studies and quotes. We had so much information that it was mind boggling!!!

Our goal was to create a 20 minute play which could be used to help educate young workers. We left the WCB with our boxes of information and set about sifting through what we thought would be the most appropriate and useful bits for our presentation.

Joe Who? Is the culmination of approximately 200 hours of research and play building. We, and by we I mean the 10 students selected from the Acting 12 class and the two instructors in the program, worked from February until May of 2002 to create this original piece. Members of the WCB education team met with us several times to view the work in progress to make sure that what we were creating met their needs.

We are so excited to be a part of this amazing project. To see drama used as a powerful educational tool is a goal and dream of every drama educator. We are grateful to the WCB for this wonderful partnership and awesome experience.

Synopsis

Joe Who?, is a 20 minute play with accompanying video. The play is made up of various scenes that depict young employees in a multitude of jobs.

The focus of the play is not to answer any questions about what the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers are, rather the play is meant to ask questions and to make open ended statements about what it's like to be a young workers.

Many of the lines in the play are direct quotes from employers, employees, and their families. This play is meant to be a part of a WCB presentation which will include an education officer from the WCB who would then facilitate a presentation to young high school students following the play.

The accompanying video which is an important piece of the play was shot at Matthew McNair Secondary School. Each school who presents this play is encouraged to create their own "man on the street" segment. This helps to personalize the piece for each community.

CAST:

The following cast were the original members of Joe Who? And created it along with the directors from McNair's Theatre program.

Joe:

Stephen Moreton Matthew Ho

Company:

(in alphabetical order)

Manveer Bisla

Chandra Chisholm

Sarah Jimenez

Joann Liu

Maggie Liu

Jason Power

Jessica Spouler

Directors:

Marco Soriano

Theresa Watts

Crew:

Stage Manager:

Katelyn Hunter

Video:

Jason Powar

Sound:

Steven Bicego

Lighting:

Elliot Taylor

Costumes and Other Requirements

The costuming for this show is very simple. The actors are required to dress in blacks. Black pants and shirts, with no logos on them. The simplicity of the costuming allows the actors to play many roles.

There are no props used in this production. All of the business is mimed, again this allows for the simplicity of the production to enable the show to be performed anywhere with little or no fuss.

The one major requirement is an LDC projector and a VCR. The LCD projector allows you to play the video on the large white flats on the set.

Acknowledgements

The directors, cast and crew of Joe Who? Would like to acknowledge the writers of a production called "Icarus". The mother's monologue was originally used in this production. Matthew McNair Secondary's Theatre program is extremely grateful to the Workers' Compensation Board for giving us this wonderful opportunity.