



## Information Packet

### What is *The Butterfly Project*?

**The Butterfly Project** is Wolf Performing Arts Center's access initiative which seeks to bring theatrical performances to venues across the Greater Philadelphia Area free of charge to our audiences and hosts. Plays selected will address an issue of social justice and will be performed by young actors in grades 6-12.

**The Butterfly Project** seeks to:

- *Inspire* the use of theatre as a platform for social change
- *Instill* the need to promote awareness and acceptance
- *Invigorate* a fight against injustice and become advocates through art

In 2011, Wolf Performing Arts Center launched **The Butterfly Project** with the play, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* by Celeste Raspanti, based on the book of the same. The story followed Raja Englanderova, a young Jewish girl, as she enters the Terezin Concentration Camp alone. Just when all seems lost, she meets a hopeful teacher, Irena Synkova, who helps her and the rest of the children express themselves through art and poetry. Raja finds strength, hope and love in her people. She survives Terezin, not alone and not afraid. After four seasons, **The Butterfly Project** retired this story.

Using the lessons learned from the first chapter of the tour, **The Butterfly Project** will premiere new one-act play written by students from Philadelphia Young Playwrights and Wolf Performing Arts Center that reflects the experiences of modern teenagers. The new play is called *The Time We Give Each Other*

### About *THE TIME WE GIVE EACH OTHER*

*"Good morning, Mabel County High School. We will be having a slight change of schedule today. All students will remain in their fourth period classrooms on lockdown until told otherwise..."*

Nine students find themselves isolated from the faculty. Using only their phones and each other, they attempt to unravel the cause of the lock down. When credibility is measured in "Likes" and rumors spread with the swipe of a finger, where can the truth be found?

The play will open up a dialogue about how we process trauma in our modern world.

### The Characters we see:

**Anna- (F)** junior who assumes the leader role throughout the play but isn't really taken seriously. She is a peer counselor.

**Andrew- (M)** junior who is partially deaf and liked by everyone.

**Angelica- (F)** sophomore who masks her insecurities through her popularity gained by her social media presence. She is obnoxiously irritating.

**Athena- (GN)** senior who is an instigator and clown of sorts.

**Carly- (F)** senior who is centered on the idea of excelling in academics and only academics. She is not liked by many because people are intimidated by her.

**Jackie- (F)** senior who is an out-and-known lesbian. She is rebellious and extremely defensive of Mia.

**Julian- (M)** senior who is the only jock in the room. He low-key writes poetry and eventually is overcome by a guilt from his and Mia's past.

**Mel- (F or M)** freshman who is known to be the teacher's pet; Depending on the actor, "Mel" can be short for "Melanie" or "Melvin"

**Willem- (M)** sophomore who desperately loves Carly but is unable to ever properly profess his love.

### The Characters we don't see:

**Mia- (F)** senior who is socially outgoing. She is well liked by many because of her wide variety of interests, but no one really knows her full story. Mia is not in school today.

**Mr. DiBlasio- (M)** The usual teacher in the room during this study hall. Mysteriously absent.

**The PA Announcer-** The ominous voice of the school administration.

### Codes for the characters' genders:

**M** – Male identified

**F-** Female identified

**GN** – Gender neutral/Gender non-conforming

### Auditions

Auditions will be held Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm and Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at Wolf Performing Arts Center located at 1240 Montrose Avenue, Bryn Mawr PA 19010. To sign up for your audition and to download the audition packet, please visit our website: [www.wolfperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wolfperformingartscenter.org)

### The Rehearsal Process and Casting

Roles are available for actors in grades 6 through 12. Four to five actors will share each of the roles in the play depending upon the number of auditioning actors. The company of **The Butterfly Project** will have 36 to 45 actors.

Rehearsals for **The Butterfly Project** will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 8:30pm. With casting, each actor will be assigned a rehearsal night. *Actors cast in **The Butterfly Project** will only be required to attend one rehearsal a week.* Actors will rehearse and learn their character's track together in a process that empowers them to invent an original character while sharing in those discoveries with other actors who share that role.

During the tour, "Brush Up" rehearsals may be called if a cast has not been able to run the show for a few weeks. Two weeks' notice will be given before every "Brush Up" rehearsal.

*You may be in one of the other Wolf PAC Fall shows and **The Butterfly Project**.*

### Conflicts

During auditions, actors will be asked to turn in a form that asks for all conflicts during the rehearsal process. Following casting, we will ask all actors to report all conflicts during the performance tour by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please include all vacations, field trips, family events and anything else that may preclude you from attending a rehearsal and performance. Be sure to include all weekend and evening conflicts. Please give specific times and dates.

Once all conflicts have been turned into the production staff, they will begin assigning tour performances to the company members.

### The Tour

Starting in January 2017 and ending in May 2017, **The Butterfly Project** will tour to 16 venues at no charge to its audiences or hosts. Due to the nature of the play, our target audiences will be schools therefore most performances will be held during the school day. Each actor will be assigned 3-4 performances based on their availability.

No actor will be asked to miss more than **5 Days of School**. Wolf Performing Arts Center will provide a letter for each student that details the educational value of these performances and asks for actor absences to be excused. In previous years, most schools have supported any student involvement in **The Butterfly Project**. Actors will take these letters to their principals following casting. If any school requires more information, please alert your director immediately.

\*\*\*The average length of time required for a performance is 4 hours (travel to venue, 1 hour set up, 1 hour performance and talk back, 20-30 minute break down, travel from venue) therefore many performances do not require missing a full day of school.

### Transportation

Each company member will be responsible for arriving at each venue on time and prepared with their costume and other necessary production material. Wolf Performing Arts Center will provide a contact list to all families listing the company members' and their families' contact information, school and zip code to aid in arranging carpools.

### Chaperones and viewing performances

Any parent or family member may stay for a performance to watch their actor perform. However, because many of our performances will be inside of schools, we ask that you provide the staff the names of any person staying within two weeks of the performance so we may inform the venues who we can expect to have with us.

## Tuition and Citizen Artists

A part of **The Butterfly Project's** mission is to provide access to theatrical experiences to any one regardless of their economic circumstances. We believe that any actor who wants to perform, any school or community center that wants to host a performance, or any individual who would like to see a performance should not be limited by their financial situation. In order to do this, we have set forth on a fundraising initiative that will help us achieve our goals.

### Pay-What-You-Can Tuition

Creating a piece of theater involves many expenses: rehearsal space rental, costumes, sets, props, and design and artistic salaries. For a typical Wolf PAC production, actor tuitions cover nearly 60% of those costs. Because of our commitment to providing access to all actors, tuition will be based on the comfort of each actor and their families. After casting, all actors must register for the program in order to provide essential contact and medical information. At that time, actors may pay any amount they and their families decide.

### Citizen Artists

Today's artists must fight to re-invent the narrative to support art-making. The new generation holds immeasurable potential to utilize social media, fresh perspectives and unique demographics to affect change. **The Butterfly Project** students will advocate for the arts, develop creative fundraising tactics and innovate other ways to garner support. Engaging students to become citizen-artists allows the mission and the message of **The Butterfly Project** to continue being presented free of charge. The tour will provide comprehensive training for these young artists which they can use for service project credits, in college applications and on professional resumes. This cycle of support serves **The Butterfly Project** by empowering our students, fostering skills that can impact the future of the arts.

Citizen artists believe in:

- The power of art to affect social change
- They believe that art should be accessible for all levels of ability and income
- That art transcends the barriers of age, experience, gender, and privilege.