



Fact Sheet 2017

Rev. 2/21/17

Contact:

Tellin' Tales Theatre
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Mission:

The mission of Tellin' Tales Theatre (TTT) is to shatter barriers between the disabled and non-disabled worlds through the transformative power of personal story. We bring together children and adults from both communities to share their stories in theatrically innovative productions and programs to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance.

Overview:

Incorporated in 1996, Tellin' Tales Theatre focuses on producing original shows that highlight adult solo performances. Soon after its inception, TTT added *Six Stories Up*, a workshop program and annual show where middle school children are teamed with adult performer/mentors; together they create an original play based on a theme with a curriculum-based component. While all of the productions of TTT include one or more performers with a disability, in 2015, a new show – *Diversity* – was introduced into the Tellin' Tales season that exclusively featured adult solo performers with disabilities. Each summer, a workshop takes place for young adults, which helps them develop their personal narrative skills. The culmination of their work comes when they present their stories in a reader's theatre performance for the public. Outside of theatrical venues, Tellin' Tales Theatre has visited schools, hospitals and other institutions to share their message of inclusion and to help others to tell their stories. TTT has also produced *Fashion Forward*, a fashion show/fundraiser that featured models with and without disabilities wearing original fashions by Chicago designers. In 2016, TTT's 20th anniversary year, it was one of three community organizations selected to have their story told in an original musical theatre work called *FREEDOM out of order* by Lyric Opera of Chicago as part of Lyric's *Chicago Voices* initiative.

Leadership:

Tekki Lomnicki, co-founder and Artistic Director of Tellin' Tales Theatre, believes in the healing power of stories. She is a solo performer, playwright, director and educator. She has devoted her craft to finding ways to incorporate her abilities and those of others to perform compelling stories. Tekki performs her critically acclaimed solo work for schools, conferences and theater audiences all over the U.S. and Canada and starred in the award-winning film, *The Miracle* by Jeffrey Jon Smith. Tekki also taught for Chicago's Gallery 37 and After School Matters which grew into the acclaimed *Six Stories Up* for Tellin' Tales Theatre. She taught solo performance to adults at the Victory Gardens Training Center and continues to teach for Tellin' Tales. She is a recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship in New Performance Forms, the 2008 3Arts Artists Award in Theater and the 2010 Grigsby Award for Excellence in Solo Performance. She most recently was awarded the Dan Van Hecke award for outstanding leadership and service to the disability community. Tekki serves on the Inclusion Committee at Old St. Mary's Church and is the District 6 Vice President of Little People of America.

Website:

www.tellintalestheatre.org

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2017 Season:

Bad Decisions – Adult solo performances

Lifeline Theatre's Fillet of Solo Festival, January 15, 22 & 29

Metamorphosis - Adult solo performers share stories of transition and growth

Prop Thtr, March 31-April 9

2017 Tellin' Tales Theatre Gala – live performance, food, auction

Roosevelt University's Fainman Lounge and Congress Lounge, May 20

Diversity 2017 - Solo works by adult performers with disabilities

Prop Thtr, June 16-18

Diverse, Loud & Proud - A reading by Tellin' Tales Theatre's young adult writers

June 17

Six Stories Up in the Divide - Six middle school apprentices and their mentors explore divided points of view

Filament Theatre, October 13-22

2016 Season:

Letting Go – Adult Solo performances

Lifeline Theatre's Fillet of Solo, January 2016

Diversity 2016 – Solo works by adult performers with disabilities

Prop Thtr, April 15-17

Tellin' Tales 20th Anniversary Celebration^[1]_{SEP} - Lively performance, food and libations

Roosevelt University's Fainman Lounge and Congress Lounge, May 21

Classroom Drama– Adult Solo performances reveal the comedy and pathos of teaching

Prop Thtr, July 22-31

Teacher, I Love You – A reading of the works of Tellin' Tales' young adult writers

Prop Thtr, July 25

FREEDOM out of order - Lyric Opera Stories and Songs of Chicago

Harris Theater, September 24

Six Stories Up in a Snowstorm - 6 middle school apprentices with their artist and writer mentors try to melt the heart of a snow beast with tales of overcoming differences

Athenaeum Theatre, December 8-19 (Fri, Sat, Sun only)

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