

Taproot Theatre's Road Company teaches bullying prevention

SEATTLE, WA – August 29, 2017 – In this divisive time, we must equip children with the tools to be positive influences, supportive bystanders and to refuse bullying of any kind. The start of a new school year should be a time of anticipation and excitement, but for 1 in 3 to 1 in 4 U.S. students¹ it's a time of dread as they face the realities of being bullied. Taproot Theatre's Road Company will tour three different plays teaching bullying prevention to over 100,000 children across the Pacific Northwest during the 2017-2018 school year. Developed using the Committee for Children's Second Step curriculum, *The Case of the Missing Friends*, *Alexandra and the Dragon* and *CyberZoo: It's Nothing Personal* teach students in grades K – 12 to effectively recognize, refuse and report bullying behavior.

According to StopBullying.gov, a website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in a national study “49% of children in grades 4-12 reported being bullied by other students at school at least once” and “30.8% reported bullying others.” Taproot Theatre is determined to improve these statistics by touring innovative productions that confront issues like diversity, forming friendships and bullying prevention and to provide resources which encourage conversation amongst students and adults alike.

The Road Company has toured dynamic social-issue plays to more than 1 million students throughout the Pacific Northwest since 1985. Get a more in-depth look at the Road Company in this video produced by Committee for Children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woAQAXHOhz0>.

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ABOUT TAPROOT THEATRE'S 2017-2018 TOURING ROAD COMPANY SHOWS

***THE CASE OF THE MISSING FRIENDS* / K – 6th Grade**

by Bethany Wallace & Nathan Kessler-Jeffrey

The fact is this: making friends can be a mystery. Jessie “Google” Blackstone is a detective, and the new girl at Hardy Elementary. She's incredibly smart with keen observation skills – but she can't quite crack the code on making new friends. When a classmate starts calling her names like “know-it-all” and “freak,” Google thinks she'll never fit in. But when a mysterious jewel heist puts her back on the detective trail, all of the clues start to add up. Follow Google as she uncovers allies that teach her the secret of the three R's: Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying.

¹ National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, [School Crime Supplement](#), 2011.

Education Goals: Forming Friendships; Empathizing with Others; Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying

ALEXANDRA AND THE DRAGON / K – 6th Grade

by Bethany Wallace

Take the best seat on the bus. Rule the school. Get revenge every time you're bullied. Isn't there a better way? Being a 5th grader comes with big responsibilities. When Alexandra stands idly by as Eddy the new kid is bullied, she and her alter-ego "Lady Alexandra" begin their most dangerous quest ever! While searching for a lost prince who was kidnapped by a fire-breathing dragon, Alexandra tries hard to stand up for Eddy. Along her journey she meets unlikely allies that help her become a positive bystander and uphold the three R's: Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying.

Education Goals: Starting a Conversation; How to be a Positive Bystander; Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying

CYBERZOO: IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL / 6th – 12th Grade

by Melanie Hampton & Courtney Kessler-Jeffrey

It started as a joke: a few well-placed words, a blurry picture and Mackenzie's Everwood Zoo blog is a success! Then Amanda starts at Everwood High, is unknowingly added to the blog, and a school-wide rush of bullying and harassment begins. While Mackenzie's posts embarrass Amanda about her body and her interests, other students make difficult decisions about the environment they want in their school. *CyberZoo: It's Nothing Personal* examines the consequences of online behavior and body-shaming while helping students make positive choices to end cyberbullying and harassment.

Education Goals: Positive body image; Personal and social responsibility; Recognizing, Reporting and Refusing Bullying

BOOKING: Visit taproottheatre.org/touring/school, call 206.529.3669 or email touring@taproottheatre.org for pricing and availability.

GRAPHICS: taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/

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About Taproot Theatre's Road Company

Taproot Theatre's Road Company has toured their dynamic social-issue plays to over 1 million students throughout the Pacific Northwest since its inception in 1985. In addition to touring productions, Taproot Theatre also provides teachers with practical resources to facilitate classroom discussion and increase the effectiveness of each show's message. The actors are also available for individual classroom visits. To book a show, please call 206.529.3669 or email touring@taproottheatre.org. For more information or complete descriptions of each show in the 2017-2018 touring season, visit taproottheatre.org/touring.

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