

Commencement

Educational Tour Information Packet

Description of Show

Commencement centers around three women drawn together in the grim aftermath of a high school shooting. The mother of the shooter (staph infection), one of the shooter's victims (early release), and the mother of that victim (keynote speaker), each performed by Hanna Cheek.

Description of Purpose to Students

Inspire open communication on the subjects of school shootings. Including, but not limited to the specific ideas of preventing total teen isolation/alienation through peer support; and the effects such events have on outside parties (i.e. parents, friends).



Optional workshop:

Creating Something Out of Nothing: Storytelling Foundation Workshop

Price Range

Performance plus short Talkback for a small audience (less than 70 kids): \$600
Performance plus short Talkback for a large audience: \$1000
Performance for a small audience, including Talk-Back and Workshop: \$850

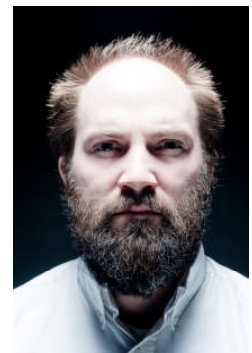
Youtube clip available at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTFE3TnsR5w>



Hanna Cheek

Hanna Cheek (performer) has been a part of The Pumpkin Pie Show since 2001, performing in Commencement (Under St. Marks), Hostage Song (The Kraine), Junta High (PS122), and Ringside Seats (Belt Theatre), among others. Hanna is also a member of the drama desk nominated Waterwell theatre company with whom she has devised and performed in #9 (59e59), The/King/Operetta (Barrow St. Theatre), Marco Millions...based on lies (Theatre Row), and The Persians...a comedy about war with five songs (Perry Street Theatre). Other NYC Credits: Artifacts of Consequence (The Wild Project), First You're Born (Playwrights Horizons), & Broken Boughs (Blue Heron Arts Center). TV credits include: Titus, MTV's Undressed, & The West Wing. Hanna is currently working on GOODBAR, a live, theatrical concept album with her rock band Bambi, created in collaboration with Waterwell.



Clay McLeod Chapman

Clay McLeod Chapman (playwright) is the creator of the rigorous storytelling session The Pumpkin Pie Show. He is the author of rest area, a collection of short stories, and miss corpus, a novel. He teaches writing at The Actors Studio MFA Program at Pace University.

Press Quotes

"Brace yourself for a sobering show with viscous silences that are uncomfortable and thought-provoking. This is an all-ages production and will appeal to teens as much as parents, so take your children, even if they sulk. The message matters, and Cheek, as the messenger, delivers it beautifully." – **The Edmonton Journal (Five Stars)**

New York's Hanna Cheek mesmerizes, nailing every word and gesture as the story builds to an unexpected confrontation — and a mother's unforgettable act of closure." – **The Winnipeg Free Press (five Stars)**

There is] a new generation of theater artists reared on a diet of vampires, zombies and charming serial killers. Call this movement the Theater of Blood... At the forefront is Clay McLeod Chapman, whose "Pumpkin Pie Show" channels the spirit of H. P. Lovecraft".

– **The New York Times**

"Clay McLeod Chapman... uses the macabre to explore the humanity of his characters and reveal an almost spiritual side to the horrific". – **The New York Times**

"Chapman [is] the literary descendent of Edgar Allen Poe..." – **Time Out New York**

"If Chapman keeps up with the oddball characters, well-crafted stories, and critical plaudits, that Faulkner guy had better look out." – **Village Voice**

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