



WALNUT STREET THEATRE



Hurry Up! Be Perfect!

BY TOM QUINN

TOURING OUTREACH COMPANY

STUDY GUIDE

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Do Middle School kids seem stressed out? Do they seem tired? Do they seem too worried all the time and afraid to make mistakes? Join us as we follow two kids who only want to please as their over scheduled lives make it tough to meet the academic and social expectations that come with being a kid in middle school. Issues like bullying, social status, parental pressure and all the confusing signals that come kids way will be dealt with as we give your students a chance to look at themselves and talk about all the things we expect of them. In the tradition of our previous outreach shows *Only 13*, *Gabby's song* and *#whatsurbox*, developed through interviews with real students from the Philadelphia, West Chester Area and Phoenixville School Districts.

ACTIVITY: How does this effect you?

One of the characters in *Hurry Up! Be Perfect!* Asks “**How many of you have a phone? How many of you use social media?**”

Discuss as a class, and take a poll of how many people have a cell phone and how many others use social media.

Next, ask who has a tablet, or a laptop or computer at home.

Ask one another how these devices or social media may effect your daily life?

HOMEWORK: Ask you parents or grandparents how life was before cell phones and social media. What are their thoughts on it? Positive? Negative? Take notes!

Share with the class your findings!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE SHOW

1. What do you think *Hurry Up! Be Perfect!* Will be about?
2. Have you ever felt stressed out about all of your responsibilities?
3. What is the most challenging part about school?
4. What is the definition of “perfect”? Do you think everyone has a different view of perfection?
5. Do you know anyone who has suffered from anxiety or depression?

AFTER THE SHOW

1. What do you think the main message of *Hurry Up! Be Perfect* is?
2. Do you think that cell phones and social media take up too much of your time?
3. How often do you worry about what others think of you?
4. Do you think there is such a thing as “perfection”?
5. Do you ever feel extremely overwhelmed with work?

THEATRE 101

Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting what’s written on the page up on its feet. Please review the following terms with your students:

PLAYWRIGHT The playwright writes the script.

DIRECTOR The director is in charge of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

COSTUME What the actors wear during the show.

SCENERY Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the setting, or where the story is taking place.

PROPS All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books and more!

LIGHTS Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

SOUND Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

ACTORS The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

AUDIENCE The lucky people that get to watch the show. New to being an audience member? Follow these rules and you will be a natural!



AUDIENCE RULES

- ◆ Unlike a movie, the actors are performing in front of you. They can see everything that you do. Talking, sleeping, poking your neighbor, or making noise during the performance distracts the actors and others around you.
- ◆ Don’t bring electronics to the performance. The use of cell phones, cameras, computers, tablets, and video game devices are **not allowed**.
- ◆ Use your better judgment on when to laugh, clap, and/or cry during the performance. But don’t forget to clap at the end of the show!
- ◆ Stay in your seat during the performance.
- ◆ Make sure you go to the bathroom before the show starts.



Activity: Teasing is Tough

Help Children cope with teasing

Materials:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Paper
- Paper Circles

Directions:

Get your children to talk about how it feels to be teased. Work together to create coping strategies.

1. **Make faces:** Give each child two paper circles and a crayon. Demonstrate how to draw a happy face on one circle, and an angry face on the other.
2. **React:** Each time you describe a situation, ask children to hold up the appropriate face to show how they would feel. Here are some examples.
 - *How would you feel if your best friend invited you to a party?*
 - *How would you feel if no one would let you use the swing?*
 - *How would you feel if you and your friends built a beautiful sandcastle together*
 - *How would you feel if some kids started teasing you by saying you were a baby?*
3. **3. Brainstorm:** Ask: *What can you do or say when someone teases you?* Write down children's ideas on paper. After gathering suggestions, you may want to simplify ideas into a three-step approach. For example:
 - Say: *Please stop it. I don't like it.*
 - Say: *I'm going to tell a teacher/parent.*
 - Tell the teacher/parent.



faces - moods

Talk About It

Explain that being teased can be a fairly common experience. Ask your children to talk about a time when someone might have teased them. Ask: *How did it make you feel? How did you react? Can you think of another way you could have handled the situation?*

Skills/ Subject Connection:

- *Creative thinking and problem solving*
- *Life skills*
- *Social and emotional development*





Group Activity: Lyrics Interpretation

Below are the lyrics to the song that opens up the play, *Hurry up! Be Perfect!*

The song is called, "Perfect" by Alannis Morissette.

What do you think these lyrics mean? What point is Alannis trying to get across through these words?

Then choose your favorite line from the song, that really speaks to you. Why is it your favorite part?

Share in front of your class!

"Sometimes is never quite enough
If you're flawless, then you'll win my love
Don't forget to win first place
Don't forget to keep that smile on your face

Be a good boy
Try a little harder
You've got to measure up
Make me prouder

How long before you screw it up
How many times do I have to tell you to hurry up
With everything I do for you
The least you can do is keep quiet

Be a good girl
You've gotta try a little harder

That simply wasn't good enough
To make us proud

I'll live through you
I'll make you what I never was
If you're the best, then maybe so am I
Compared to him compared to her
I'm doing this for your own damn good
You'll make up for what I blew
What's the problem, why are you crying

Be a good boy
Push a little farther now
That wasn't fast enough
To make us happy
We'll love you just the way you are
If you're perfect"



Think outside the box:

What are your thoughts about the background music used to help tell the story??

Are there any other songs that you think would be a good fit to *Hurry up! Be Perfect?*

Activity: Draw It

All of us perceive ourselves differently. In *Hurry Up! Be Perfect!* Some of the characters view themselves to be “perfect” or “not perfect”.

Below draw a picture of how you perceive yourself as well as listing words that you think describe yourself!



Statistics:

Anxiety disorders affect 25.1% of children between 13 and 18 years old. Research shows that untreated children with anxiety disorders are at higher risk to perform poorly in school, miss out on important social experiences, and engage in substance abuse.

Anxiety and depression are treatable, but 80 percent of kids with a diagnosable anxiety disorder and 60 percent of kids with diagnosable depression are not getting treatment, according to the 2015 [Child Mind Institute Children's Mental Health Report](#).

Activity: Act It out

Below is a portion of the script from *Hurry Up! Be Perfect!*

Practice reading the script!

Read the scene in front of the class!

LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:

Walnut Street Theatre
ATTN: Education Department
825 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dan: Dude. Chill.

Ladarreun: Okay. But this not holding my phone thing is freaking me out.

Sarah: Why did you take our phones? I don't like this.

Hallie: I thought that we could connect.

Dan: We are connected. Adults have no clue. I have 2000 followers on Instagram.

Hallie: Who are those people?

Dan: I don't know.

Hallie: So they aren't your friends.

Dan: They're followers.

Hallie: Sounds creepy.

Dan: Hadn't thought of it that way.

Sarah: I stick to snaps.

Hallie: Are those people your friends?

Sarah: No, but I know when @KittiesRAwesome goes to the bathroom.

Hallie: And that is cool how?

Sarah: I don't know, but I know what lots of people are doing.

Hallie: Also creepy.

Ladarreun: So you took my phone because social media is creepy?

Hallie: No. I took it because staring at my phone is lonely. It's nice to see your faces. Its nice to see you looking at me. To actually notice that I am in the room. I don't get that much.

Dan: So you're a loser?

Sarah: Shut up!

Dan: What? She sounds like she is old. Like 40 or something. Making connections and putting down phones. We aren't hurting anybody with our phones.

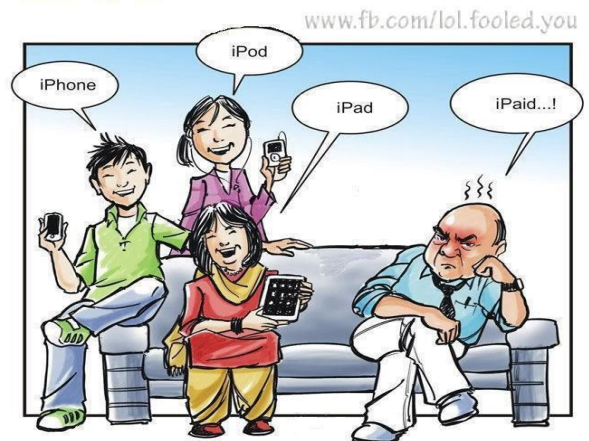
Hallie: I didn't say you were. It's just I am so lonely. Like, all the time. I go into my room and get on my phone and I text and I chat and there is no one really there.

TALK ABOUT IT

How did you feel about this scene?

Have you ever found yourself feeling "dependent" upon your cell phones?

Is talking face to face challenging for you because you are so used to communicating through your phones?





WALNUT STREET THEATRE

BIOGRAPHY



Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 35th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

Each season, Walnut Street Theatre holds a nation-wide search to recruit accomplished young professionals for Acting Apprenticeships. These actors form our Touring Outreach Company. Nearly 500 candidates are considered each year for these four positions. Last season, **172,000** children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our artist in residency programs.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE
EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE
RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST
EDUCATION APPRENTICE
ACTING APPRENTICES

Thomas Quinn
Ashley Kerns
Elizabeth Ellis
Stephanie Sintef
Jasmine Hammond
Aine Lafferty
Hallie Hargus
Sarah Owens
Daniel Wisniewski
Ladarreun Taylor

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WEB

- **Educational Drama Activities**
<http://plays.about.com/od/activities/>
- **Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company**
<http://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/touring.php>



NO EASY ROAD TO FREEDOM CREATIVE TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT

Tom Quinn

DIRECTOR

Ashley Kerns

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Tom Quinn is the author of *The Berenstain Bears Hospital Friends*, *The Return of Nick Nutrition and His Dog Fiber*, *Only 13*, *A Philly Phairy Tale*, *The Boy Who Cried Bully*, *The Bully Buster Rides Again*, and *Mean Girls R Bullies 2*. Quinn also serves as the Director of Education at Walnut Street Theatre overseeing a program that reaches over 172,000 students each year. Quinn was a recipient of the Dorothy Haas Acting Fellowship from Walnut Street Theatre in 1991-92. Tom also performed in regional theatre across the country before obtaining a teaching degree and Masters in Education from West Chester University, along with a Masters in Educational Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College. A former high school teacher and school administrator Quinn has also worked as a grant reviewer for the US Department of Education.

THANK YOU

**The Walnut Street Theatre
Education Department
gratefully acknowledges the support from
the following:**

Anonymous (2) * Aqua America * Louis N. Cassett Foundation * Connelly Foundation * The Peter & Audrey Denton Fund * Dow Chemical Company * William Goldman Foundation * Hamilton Family Foundation * Hassel Foundation * Haverford Trust Company * Hellendall Family Foundation * Herman Goldner Company * Syde Hurdus Foundation * William Penn Foundation * Mutual Fire Foundation * Lincoln Financial Group Foundation * National Corporate Theatre Fund * PECO * TD Charitable Foundation * Theatre Forward * United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey * Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co.

Walnut Street Theatre Educational Opportunities!

2016-2017
SEASON

WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

Bring a show to your school!

Bully Buster Rides again
Hurry Up! Be Perfect!
Fairy Tale Monster Mystery
Martin and Malcolm

*Open a dialogue with students about issues that
affect them!*

Call 215-574-3550 , ext. 584

Walnut Street Theatre for Kids!

Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre!

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (December)
Honk!
Stink Kids!
Flat Stanley
Ivy and Bean

Tickets just \$10-\$16!

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!



The Theatre School at WALNUT STREET THEATRE

Classes for kids, students, and adults!

For students from 5 to 105! Great for networking,
providing a creative outlet, and professional training.

Find your inner star at the Walnut!
Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

*Let us design a dramatic and
educational program for your school!*

We support teacher's objectives with
personalized programs that meet your needs
and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 511

When we PLAY, Learning Happens!