

For immediate release
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Illusion Theater Education Programming – Spring 2024

This March Illusion Theater brings its celebrated production of **KEEPIN' IT REAL** to Twin Cities area schools and to the theater in the Center for Performing Arts (CFPA) in South Minneapolis. Additionally, T. Mychael Rambo will present his one-man musical story show **PRESENT** for two student performances at CFPA.

KEEPIN' IT REAL



KEEPIN' IT REAL

All the frankness, fun and failure that happens in high school comes out in this interactive performance piece. **KEEPIN' IT REAL** was originally created from the stories older teens told to younger teens to prepare them for high school. The older teens wanted the incoming freshmen to learn from and avoid some of the dramas they'd experienced. Now, those scenarios are told in a performance where the teen audience is asked to think through and imagine what they would do in the face of challenges like bullying, texting/sexting, first kiss, social media, and mental health. These are frank and honest depictions

from actual student's stories. The script is modified each year based on students' feedback.

Some responses to last year's:

"Most of the scenes relate to me and relate to my life."

"I know people who are going through what happens in the play."

"Some days you just need a break."

"This play shows what you're up against in life."

Each performance is followed by a discussion between the students, the performers, and Illusion Staff.

KEEPIN' IT REAL was developed with input from metro area teens and by Illusion's Education Team - Producing Director Bonnie Morris, Director of Education Karen Gundlach, and Content Specialist Kathy Anlauf. Illusion's Performing Company/Teaching Artists also provide input. This year those artists are McKinnley Aitchison, Bri Peterson, Victoria Bravo, Ricky Morisseau, and Alex Church.

KEEPIN' IT REAL - Tour Performances

March 4 at St Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts (St. Paul)
March 5 at Franklin Middle School (Minneapolis)
March 6 at Anwatin Middle School (Minneapolis)
March 7 at Anthony Middle School (Minneapolis)
March 8 at Sanford Middle School (Minneapolis)
March 11 at Justice Page Middle School (Minneapolis)
March 12 Richfield Middle School (Richfield)

KEEPIN' IT REAL Performances at Illusion Theater at Center for Performing Arts (3754 Pleasant Avenue South, Minneapolis)

March 19 Washington Tech
March 20 Washington Tech
March 22 Friendship Academy



PRESENT

T. Mychael Rambo will be performing his autobiographical work **PRESENT** with students in live performances at Illusion Theater in the Center for Performing Arts. T. Mychael shares the insights he has gained from the setbacks he has faced and the joys and healing he has found in music, family and performing. T Mychael Rambo performs with Ryan Bynum on keyboards. **PRESENT** was directed by Michael Robins with music direction and arrangements by Roberta Carlson.

"Everything T. Mychael does, he does with a spirit of generosity.

He willingly shares the knowledge he has gained from heartaches he has experienced. And he equally shares with us the joys of life. This show is truly a gift, a 'present' for the audience." – Michael Robins

"Now, more than ever, it's time to be present!" – T. Mychael Rambo

PRESENT Performances at Illusion Theater at Center for Performing Arts (3754 Pleasant Avenue South, Minneapolis)

March 13
March 18