

NEWS MATTERS: ACCEPTANCE – THEN AND NOW

**ENCHANTED CIRCLE THEATER
& CHESTNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH.
PRODUCED BY FOCUS SPRINGFIELD.**

News Matters is an arts integration program in which students draw inspiration from daily news and online media platforms to develop their research, writing, and self-presentation skills, and to become engaged in what is happening in the world around them.

Through discussion of news events, both within their own community and in the larger context of the world around them, participants explore issues relating to race, rights, and identity to find out what matters most to them, analyze how different authors present key information by emphasizing different evidence and perspectives and work with the ECT teaching artist to take a personal stand on an issue, advance their own interpretation of the facts and create their story.

This performance came out of discussing current issues related to middle school youth. Acceptance was the resonant theme, so this performance attempts to peel back the layers of what acceptance truly looks like. When we begin to accept our own lives and truths, it is much easier to accept others.

Focus Springfield Community TV is proud to partner with local groups and organizations to help tell stories and communicate ideas through video. In this video, Focus filmed in-studio and edited the full performance created by these Chestnut Middle School students with guidance from Enchanted Circle Theater staff. Here at Focus Springfield, an integral part of our mission is “to improve the quality of life for Springfield residents... [through] community building, education, training, and promoting the benefits of living, learning, and working in Springfield.”

The Springfield Central Cultural District encompasses the metro center of Springfield, and is membership-based, involving many of the arts institutions Downtown. Its mission is to create and sustain a vibrant cultural environment in Springfield, MA.



**ART STOP(S) SUMMER 2017
A POP UP GALLERY PROGRAM
MORE INFORMATION AT SPRINGFIELDculture.org**

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**WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY CHESTNUT MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUPERSTAR STUDENTS WITH ENCHANTED CIRCLE TEACHING
ARTIST TONY JONES.**

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Introduction

Song: *Scars to Your Beautiful* by Alessia Cara

Public Service Announcement on Acceptance

Poem: *Incident* by Countee Cullen

Statistics

When the Penguin Looked at the Eagle: A Fable

Finale

Cast: Eliezer Baez, Jason Carrasquillo, Roselyn Davila Ortiz, Anais Encarnacion, Jakiera Forde, Amy Gonzalez, Lexani Gonzalez, Yovana Lopez Paz, Na'Shay Miller, Milliany Nieves, Netanis Ortiz, Dilianette Tellado Ramos, Naily Torilus, Jeilianis Vazquez Reyes

Director: Tony Jones

Producer and Editor: Brendon Holland

Associate Director: Erin Burns

Video Director: Josue Vazquez

Camera: Yesenia Almonte , Zulfiqar Manzi, Carolyn Roberts, Korey Collazo



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