

"Listen attentively, and above all, remember that true tales are meant to be transmitted - to keep them to oneself is to betray them."

~Elie Wiesel, *Souls on Fire*

~

A MESSAGE FROM INCLUSIVE THEATER OF WNY (ITOWNY)

Inclusive Theater of WNY (ITOWNY) began with a vision: to create a safe place for people of all abilities and backgrounds to grow in experience and understanding in the arts, while exploring their undiscovered abilities and talents. We believe that any time people of varied backgrounds are working together, the world gets a little bit friendlier and dare we say, better!!

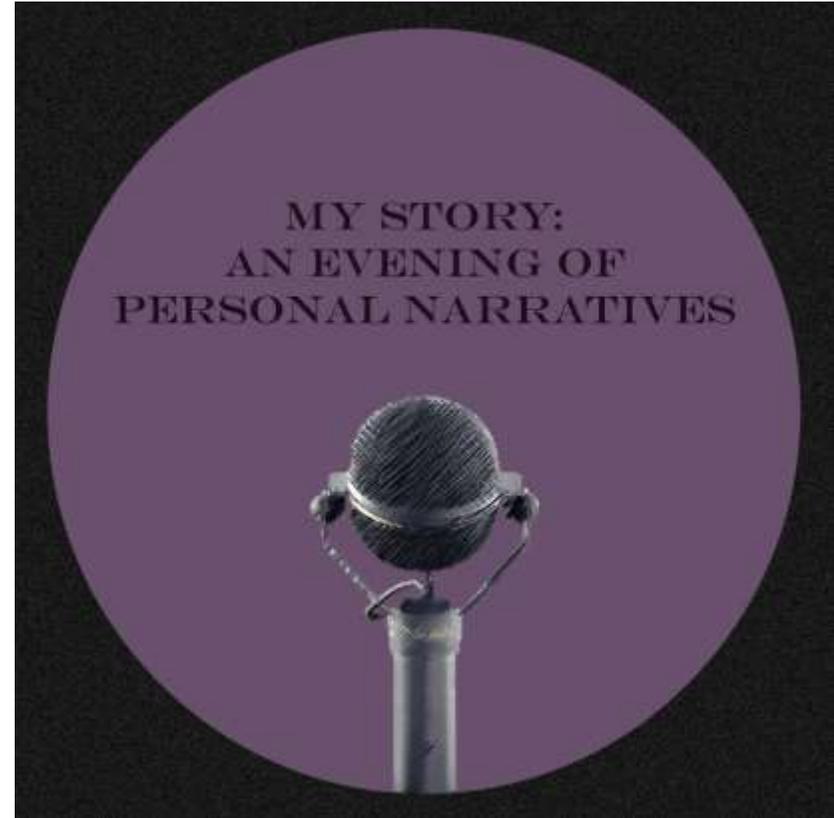
Two years later, we have realized that vision in our first offering, *My Story: An Evening of Personal Narratives*. Our cast members are people from varied backgrounds and levels of experience who didn't know each other prior to their participation with ITOWNY. They have continued to encourage and support each other through events such as writing group, acting and improv classes, and pop-up theater; all the while, establishing their roles as artists.

ITOWNY would like to take this moment to thank all of our participants, donors, and volunteers who are helping us to make change; here in Western New York and beyond! In particular, we would like to thank our director, Sophia Roberts, Regional Director of the Self Advocacy Association of NY State and Patrick Moltane and Leah Duffy and their students, from Buffalo State College, for their participation and support. Also major gratitude goes out to Jennifer Weber, Virginia Brannon, Baroness Von Smith, Dr. Valerie Gaus, Judy Hartmann, Megan McNally, and Tamera Knight for their encouragement and support. Special thanks also goes out to Jaclyn Levesque for our amazing show art and to Bob Howard and Catherine Minder for the incredible headshots. Also, thank you to our families and friends. Without you, we could not do this. We appreciate your love and support. Thanks to the folks above and the generous and thoughtful support of our other donors and volunteers, ITOWNY will continue to demonstrate what true inclusion looks like and prove to those who doubt its value, that when given the opportunity, training, and appropriate support in an inclusive setting, people will accomplish things they never thought possible!

As one woman said after participating in a weekend workshop in which the participants made a set, wrote a play and performed it before an audience, all in one day, "I really didn't think we could do this! But we did it!" She, a woman with Cerebral Palsy, as well as other participants, admitted they'd had the same doubts. None had ever performed, or even spoken in front of a group before. When their original play was performed before a live audience, the show garnered real laughs and a generous ovation. Several weeks later, the group performed the play before a larger audience. Here was a group of people who did something they thought they never could do, AND THEY DID IT!

That is what Inclusive Theater of WNY is all about.

With much love and gratitude,
Aimee & Marilyn
Inclusive Theater of WNY
www.inclusivetheaterofwny.com



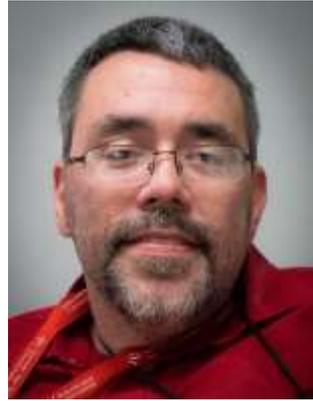
Directed by Sophia Roberts
Produced by Inclusive Theater
of WNY (ITOWNY)

November 2, 2017, Hallwalls
November 3, 2017, The Foundry
7:30PM

The Cast and Crew



Aimee Levesque, Founder and Executive Director, ITOWNY



Mike Rogers



Alexandra Cartier



Jessica Levesque



Marilyn Erentsen-Scott, Artistic Director, ITOWNY



Chris Devealt



Chris Clark



Avery Gill



Sophia Roberts, Director, *My Story: An Evening of Personal Narratives*



Dallas Taylor



Colleen O'Byrne