



**2017–18** 

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Classics Live Programming and  
Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools  
**CASE STUDY**

**CONTACT**

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# ABOUT A Noise Within

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**“An oasis for those who love classic stories told in a classic way.”**

—Los Angeles Times

**“The West Coast’s Premier Classical Theatre Company.”**

—Los Angeles Magazine

**“One of the nation’s premier classical repertory companies.”**

—Huffington Post

A Noise Within is an award-winning, vibrant regional theatre in Pasadena, California. As Southern California’s only year-round classic repertory theatre, we are dedicated to forging connections between our community and time-tested classic stories.

Each season, we present 140 performances of seven classic plays, serving 40,000 patrons and students. We are a company of professional resident and guest artists that are dedicated to serving their community and classic stories with openness and integrity. We also offer education programs that reach 16,000 local students, acting classes, staged free readings, and summer camps.

Under the direction of Producing Artistic Directors Geoff Elliott and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, A Noise Within truly delivers **classic theatre, modern magic.**

# WHY

## Arts Education?

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### **With access to arts education, students:**

- gain skills in various fields, including cognitive ability and verbal skill
- practice and become familiar with critical thinking techniques
- step out of their comfort zone and build their confidence
- learn to work cooperatively and collaborate in groups
- learn to appreciate and respect different points of views

# STUDENT Statistics

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**16,000+** students and teachers participated in programming in 2017–18

**ALL** student tickets are significantly subsidized

Nearly **1500** students participated in workshops/ residency programs

**250** students attended our Summer with Shakespeare camp, homeschool classes and Saturday acting classes

**7** unique study guides were made accessible to all student groups who came to ANW

**2** free professional development sessions were held in 2017-18 serving **150** teachers and **600** complimentary teacher tickets were used at performances

# WHY Visit?

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## When visiting **A Noise Within**, students enjoy:

- Exciting and active pre-show activities with our knowledgeable teaching artists
- Free downloadable study guides that allow for deeper engagement with the source text, as well as concise 1-sheets to help prepare them for the performance
- Highly subsidized tickets to a full-length professional production of a classical play
- An in-depth post-show discussion with the cast where students can ask questions and interact with the artists on a more profound level
- The ability to book pre-show and post-show workshops with our teaching artists that cover everything from text analysis to sword fighting
- A fun and meaningful artistic experience that they will remember for life!



**94%** Wish they had more opportunities to do a workshop in their class.



"can you please come back again? the workshops were so fun and I learned a lot!"



"I'd like to firstly express my thanks for everyone who came to our school to work with us on the workshops. Also, the play was phenomenal, the fight scenes, acting, and set incredible, and the workshops were dope. Please do more! Love y'all!"

"I was able to relate so much to what I saw on stage, I didn't realize other people felt the same way I did. It was super cool."

"I do not know how you guys did it, it was so perfect. I was speechless in the end and I am still speechless up to now."



"This workshop made me like Shakespeare and his language."





**96%** Wish they had more opportunities to attend live theatre performances.

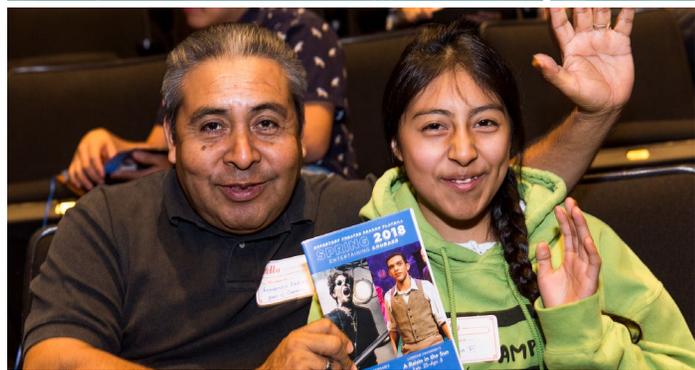


"My mom loved the play so much she started to read the *Henry V* book...I will never forget this play."

"I love the play, I will sit there and watch it 1,000 times over and over again. I love the play because it seemed like it was actually happening. When you watch it from the beginning to the end it felt like you were in that time period...I will love to see it again but in the very front row."



"Watching the play was SO much better than reading it in class. I finally understood what was happening!"



"The show was spectacular, and I got chills when Jeremy Rabb recited the lines I was assigned at the workshop (He was much better)."



# EMPATHY

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills

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The phrase “21st century skill” is used to describe the specific and unique skill set required to succeed in modern culture. While collaboration, critical thinking, and digital literacy are all great examples of 21st century skills, empathy, above all, is the key to success. Without empathy, it is impossible to communicate effectively in today’s diverse and complex world. By teaching and practicing empathy with students, we prepare them to be capable and effective members of society.

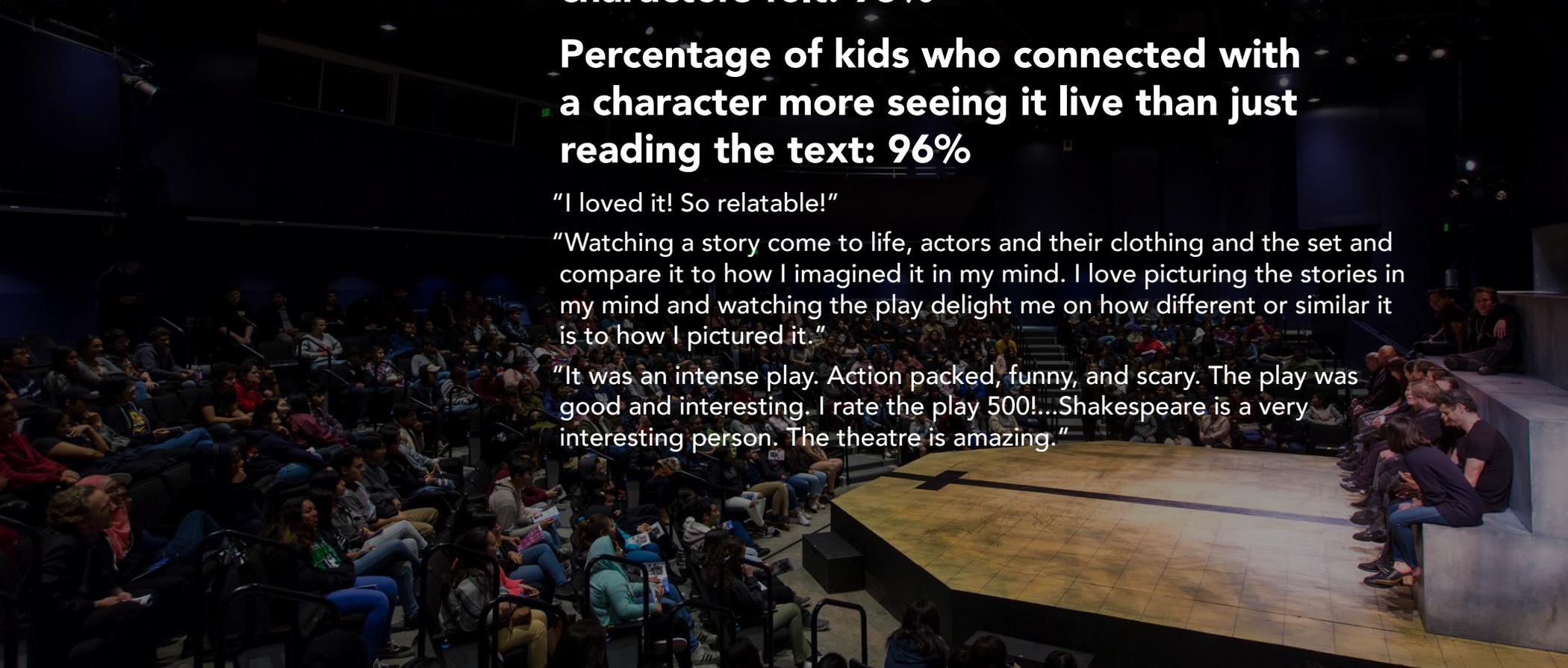
**Percentage of kids who understood how characters felt: 93%**

**Percentage of kids who connected with a character more seeing it live than just reading the text: 96%**

“I loved it! So relatable!”

“Watching a story come to life, actors and their clothing and the set and compare it to how I imagined it in my mind. I love picturing the stories in my mind and watching the play delight me on how different or similar it is to how I pictured it.”

“It was an intense play. Action packed, funny, and scary. The play was good and interesting. I rate the play 500!...Shakespeare is a very interesting person. The theatre is amazing.”



# RFK Sponsorship

EduCare tries to bring exciting opportunities to our communities. This was an incredibly unique opportunity to build community within RFK.

I saw parents and students connecting and having wonderful conversations that are not typical. One of the most memorable comments from a student who attended was, "I've never had a chance to spend time with my dad alone and talk to him." I think that quote is one of the many life altering experiences our students had because of this opportunity.

— George Hernandez, Vice President of After School Programs at EduCare Foundation

In Spring 2018, A Noise Within had the incredible opportunity to partner with the RFK Community Schools for a series of workshops revolving around *Henry V* that enabled students to engage more deeply with the arts. Before visiting the theater, students were put in the position of directors and designers when the ANW team held a pre-show assembly that delved into *Henry V*'s set, costume design, casting, and more! On February 16<sup>th</sup>, over 350 students and family members from the RFK community came to the theater to experience the riveting production for themselves. The students loved being able to see the show after engaging in it personally beforehand, saying that it was a **"unique"** and **"life-changing"** experience that left them **"truly inspired."** After the show, the partnership continued when ANW teaching artists went to RFK and worked with students to create their own costume designs, based on what they had seen at the theater. Students also participated in a stage combat workshop, where they used real swords to learn some of the fight choreography from the show! This partnership is one example among many successful partnerships and long-term relationships with many schools.



**"Creative people are curious, flexible, and independent with a  
TREMENDOUS SPIRIT AND A LOVE OF PLAY."**

—Henri Matisse



Generous support  
for A Noise Within's  
Classics Live!  
Programs provide by:



The Sally and Dick Roberts  
Coyote Foundation

Waste no more time arguing what a good person should be. Be one.  
— Marcus Aurelius



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