



Act II Community Conversations Teen Night

Dialogue Report

Executive Summary

In partnership with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, the Zeidler Center hosted Act II Community Conversations that brought over 3000 audience members together for discussion after 33 performances of *American Song*, a play that touched upon topics including parenting, mental illness, and gun violence. This report represents audience feedback and facilitator notes from the dialogue that took place on March 22, 2016 and was called Teen Night, where each discussion group included teens from local schools alongside adult audience members.

Participant Demographics:

In the introductory round of the Act II teen night small group dialogues, participants identified themselves as high school students, Rep season ticket-holders, Rep interns/employees, non-profit workers, artists, activists, parents, and curious community members. In their feedback forms, many participants expressed appreciation for the amount diversity (age, race, personal background) within their groups, stating that these conditions produced richer and more satisfying conversations.

Small Group Discussion Summary:

In small groups, facilitators led participants to discuss the following question: Share a personal experience from your life that you think shapes how you respond to *American Song*. Facilitators anonymously recorded audience responses to this prompt and those responses can be found in the next section of this report, grouped thematically.

In response to the dialogue prompt, most participants shared experiences relating to their roles as parents/caretakers; witnessing the effects of mental health issues and/or drug and alcohol use; observing or directly experiencing the effects of violence and crime in their lives; and identifying what they felt were troubling trends in American society.

Experiences regarding the challenges between the relationships between parents and children were the most common theme discussed in the small groups. One participant noted, *"I feel like this could have been a situation that I might have faced had it not been for the grace of God. I wonder if my husband and I are doing all that we can to keep our kids safe from harm and other kids safe as well."* Participants identified their own troubles relating to their children, especially during their children's teenage years. Another participant said, *"I have five children who grew up through the teenage years. You never really know what's going on inside a teenager. It's scary. Anything can change."* Many of these participants said that they felt fear when acknowledging their disconnection from their offspring.

Mental illness and psychological health was another topic that many participants commented on. Participants discussed feelings of helplessness related to family members and friends who had attempted or succeeded in committing suicide. Others described stories of fear and

tragedy regarding loved ones with mental illness. One participant said, *“We always knew my cousin had mental health issues... One day, he walked into the local hardware store and bought a gun... Then he decided to take someone hostage at the Dollar Store. The stand-off ended with him shooting the hostage and then killing himself with the gun.”*

Another common theme that emerged in the small groups concerned violence in local schools. A number of the participants expressed concern over the prevalence of gun and bomb threats within their schools. Others discussed trauma about past incidents of violence. One participant said, *“I am a teacher and there was a mass shooting at my school. I’m still haunted when I enter the room where the shooting took place.”* A number of teachers reported the need to constantly assess the safety of his or her students while on the job.

Other themes that emerged in the small groups concerned the normalization of violence in American society. Participants expressed concern about the frequency of gun-related incidents in their own or their loved ones’ lives. Other discussions focused on how the media’s sensationalism of mass shooting impairs the population’s ability to ask compassionate questions; how drugs, mental health, and gun violence are intimately related; and how important it is to avoid prejudice when considering large populations of people like the mentally ill and teenagers.

In the feedback forms, beginning on page 11, the majority of participants rated their experience of the dialogue positively, describing it as “absolutely” beneficial.

Discussion Method

The Zeidler Center for Public Discussion uses Reflective Structured Dialogue as a means to help communities generate mutual understanding. Incorporating timed facilitation and trained facilitators, Zeidler Center listening circles allow participants equal and uninterrupted time to respectfully share their personal perspectives and learn the perspectives of others. In order to keep the conversation safe and open for all participants, the Zeidler Center also uses communication agreements. The agreements for this dialogue included sharing airtime, speaking from your personal experiences, and not criticizing the opinions of others or attempting to persuade others.

Participant Responses

The following bulleted points represent separate individual responses to the prompt: Share a personal experience from your life that you think shapes how you respond to *American Song*.

Parent/Child Relationships

- There is a deep-seated feeling that 'there is nothing I can do about it' with my difficult son, and also with the son of Andy – Robbie. Sports straightened my son out in an instant. I just kept sitting there watching Andy, and thinking about my son. It could've been him – or anybody – or the child of a friend.
- I grew up in a violent household. My parents tried to kill each other. Why does any person think that violence is the answer to anything?
- My friend wouldn't talk to her mom. She always wanted to be at my house even though my mom and I argued all the time. My friend later committed suicide.
- As a mother and grandmother how can you not respond to those feelings? I took the car keys and the car away from my grandson after he failed to follow orders. He was so angry when I took the keys away that it became scary. I had such a fear that he'd taken a gun to school to shoot others. We have so much violence that the potential is always in the back of our own minds.
- As a mother, I have spent plenty of time imagining scenarios and worrying about what ifs, fending off fears that were mostly never real. Sure we've have accidents and injuries, stressful moments losing something or someone at an event. But never like that of tonight's speaker.
- I have two sons. I fear for them everyday.
- I have five children who grew up through the teenage years. You never really know what's going on inside a teenager. It's scary. Anything can change.
- I experienced a personal parental struggle watching the play because I have young children (boys). I feel like this could have been a situation that I might have faced had it not been for the grace of God. I wonder if my husband and I are doing all that we can to keep our kids safe from harm and other kids safe as well. I feel helpless because children especially boys can be very mysterious. I worry that I can't see problems affecting my children and I wonder if I need to find different methods of communication to have my boys feeling comfortable to always come to me with any problems they may be having.
- The play showed the need to move from blaming parents to understanding their challenges
- Raised my kids w/o much incident. It's different now... I can hear me as father saying to my kid "I've been there too" but the kid says "Pop, it's not the same as today, you have no idea."
- I grew up in the sheltered environment of a Mexican American family with a very protective father who has always been strict in keeping me away from any "bad influences" or "troubled" kids. I relate to the character in the play as a Dad and how he

did not approve of his son's friend (the one who ended up participating in the shooting and being killed along with him).

- I related to this as a parent. I'm not affected by gun violence in my family circle. You want to blame the parents.

Mental Health & Psychological Development

- A couple months ago while at school a girl sent me a message asking if I've had suicidal thoughts. I didn't really know what to say. That afternoon she took pills and never woke up. Don't know why or where she got the pills. I feel I should have done more – told her mom or talked to her. I didn't know what to do.
- Recently, a friend attempted suicide.
- In my job as a Community Crisis Stabilizer for the Running Rebels program, I talk to violent offenders, sometimes in schools, or after school programs but even in jails. What I've seen is that most of these youth were not raised like any of y'all (glancing towards the season ticket holders). They have no parental oversight, many of them have broken families, and parents strung out or dealing. No jobs... no hope. I so often am watching TV or reading a paper and I see one of the boy's faces... and the crime. And I say, "I know that kid" our community is so dysfunctional and people have become set in their ways.... It's the way it is.
- I became a teacher to help kids realize that they have options to become the best that they can be. Helping kids figure that out is why she became a teacher. She offered the parents of young kids hope that they will survive their kid's teenage years even if the unthinkable happened.
- I had a great surrounding growing up, but a switch could happen and people not know which can cause bad/suicidal thoughts. Always speak and listen to people when they need to talk.
- We always knew my cousin had mental health issues; schizophrenia and Bi-polar Disorder. One day, he walked into the local hardware store and bought a gun. Then he sat on the curb for couple of hours, just playing with it and fooling around. Then he decided to take someone hostage at the Dollar Store. The stand-off ended with him shooting the hostage and then killing himself with the gun... It was very difficult to grasp how to respond, because we always knew he had obvious mental health problems and could not be held accountable for his actions, so it leaves you with really no one to blame and no way to resolve the situation, due to both his being dead and not having been in his right mind to begin with.
- I have an 18-month-old daughter. She is in an in-home daycare down the street. Some older kids were excluding her from the group. She has experienced a loss of innocence at a very young age. For her, the world is not a perfect place. She has experienced a stark reality of being excluded, of being pushed.
- My daughter smothered my grandson after he was born and then failed in her suicide attempt. Now she's in prison for the rest of her life. It's such a tragedy. Look at this picture of them – they look so normal.

Victims of Crime & Violence

- One time, walking home from school, I was jumped by 7 boys, they took my phone and backpack, beat me to the ground and kicked me. It wasn't bad, I didn't resist. I ran home. I lived with my grandmother because my mother could not care for me and I don't know my father. I was 14yrs old, I tried not to think about it. To shut out the memory, say it didn't happen... because I was scared and I didn't want to bring attention to me for fear they might get me again. I try to keep it in, but I'm really angry.... I find if I just smile, I can make myself find happiness.
- My mother and I parked our car in the alley behind our house... we've been held up a few times back there... it's really scary. It's one thing to see it on the TV... but when it happens... you close up inside, you remain silent to the world around you because it's not safe, even in your own backyard.
- About 6 weeks ago a couple of my co-workers were held up at gunpoint in the 3rd ward. They didn't mention it for a few days. It's terrifying to hear of happening to people I know in areas I feel safe entering... But what was worse is what the police told them that night when filing the incident report... the people asked the police if this was unusual in that area... when he replied this was not unusual, they get 50+ a night on some nights. That was really upsetting because I had no idea and it makes me much more cautious, afraid and aware now.
- My father was mugged.
- Last week in a local cafeteria some students made and hung a large Black Lives Matter poster as a memorial to people affected by gun violence. Students wrote names of people they knew. The poster was full – a sickening reminder of the state of gun violence. Makes me so angry.
- In Chicago, at a hamburger joint, my brother was shot. This play revived those feelings for me. My brother had the bullet in him the rest of his life
- My cousin was shot in the leg

Violence within Schools

- I am a teacher. We have had several guns in our school. After two days no one talks about school shootings that we see on the news. It's appalling that no one does anything about youth access to guns.
- We have had bomb threats at my school and everyone panicked. We all had to go to the gym and no one knew what was happening. It was scary. Parents don't know how to react when this stuff happens.
- Never thought about it until school was shut down.
- Going to school is more dangerous. I worry about my younger siblings.
- I had to stay at home from school, two days ago because the school was shut down, due to a gun threat.
- There have been multiple bomb threats at the high school I attend. They were really just pranks, but you never know when people could really get hurt. You really don't know when somebody might change.

- I have to constantly assess classroom safety. E.g., our classroom is below ground, with windows. I feel very vulnerable because someone on the outside can look down into the classroom. I constantly rehearse what I would do to keep the kids safe if something happened.
- I ended up hiding in the basement with kids when the principal was killed at Whitman school in Wauwatosa many years ago. I have seven grandchildren and I fear for them when they are in school.
- I've worked in education for more than 20 years, and it's evolving/changing. This play has implications for education.
- I am a teacher and there was a mass shooting at my school. I'm still haunted when I enter the room where the shooting took place.
- There are lock downs every few months at school. Not taken seriously – people laugh.

Drug Use & Its Effects

- In my family there were A.O.D.A. Issues which lead to persons getting shot and in one case one of my relatives was murdered.
- My son abused alcohol and drugs without us being aware until he reached a point total personality change. We attempted to get him help, but it was a challenging time in our lives, our whole family both nuclear and extended.
- There was a friend who was a little different. This person used drugs a lot in high school and students and teacher knew that he was but no one said anything. A couple years later the friend started using heroin and he became a heroin addict. People see others destroying their lives but people just don't want to say anything or get involved in a bad situation.
- In the neighborhood where I teach, there is an individual whose warning signs for violence were apparent to all persons coming in daily contact with him. On one occasion, he was drunk and threatened to kill an individual they all knew, they blew it off that he just said he would kill because he was drunk. He did indeed murder this person.

Death within the Family & Community

- When I was 20 years old my uncle shot and killed his girlfriend, that event devastated our family.
- My brother committed suicide in 1971. Oldest nephew did also very recently. I hate guns. If they were not so accessible I like to think people would be forced to think of what they were considering and maybe change their mind before pulling the trigger
- Last year my brother died in front of me. He was walking down the street in front of our house. He was swerving and stumbling like he was drunk. He had been shot and dies in front of me. It hurts.
- The recent death of my cousin by gun violence. It's crazy to think that someone would take a life. It is really scary that teens think that violence is okay.
- Uncle got shot while playing pool, when there was an argument. He passed away.
- I lost my son in 2007 – my other son built a wall for him. This play is related to this sense of loss – of any family member, child.

- A neighbor's father shot a person (the wrong person) who he thought raped his daughter.
- When I was 10 years old my dad came home from work and announced that the OBGYN who delivered my siblings and me shot himself. He (OBGYN) had 20-year-old twin sons, one of whom was gay. The doc shot the gay son and then himself. My dad had some unkind words about the son. It bothered me that he (my dad) seemed ok with the doc's decision. My dad was homophobic. I was left-handed and liked to sing and dance; because of this, my dad was brutal to me in an attempt to thwart any potential gayness.

Normalization of Violence

- It is hard to except that human beings can do these horrible things to other human beings. She said that it is appalling that mass murder of children has become a normal phenomenon.
- There is more prevalence of dealing with problems through the use of guns
- Gun violence has become "normalized" (referencing the essay written by the after-show speaker) and that seems sad for our country and young people in our communities.
- I am aware of teens who have had exposure to gun violence and know of several adults who own guns. It worries me to think of how possible and how unpredictable an event like the one described in the play is likely to be.
- Shootings are becoming normal. When you are a parent, you do all you can do but you don't know how your kids will turn out. Our society always demonizes criminals but there are two sides to every story (as we saw in the play).
- When we moved to Milwaukee I was scared due to the reputation for violence. This kind of thing will be normal for the next generation.
- Walking the streets is dangerous, including suburban gathering places.

Motivations and After-Effects of Mass Shootings

- It was during Ramadan that I was at a wedding shower. While there I heard of a shooting at a temple. I thought of my Muslim friends and panicked... Turns out it wasn't my friends. I was relieved but even so I know it was someone's' friends. The shooter spoke out against Muslims, but in his ignorance he shot at a Sikh temple. I firmly believe that ignorance breeds fear; fear breeds ignorance; ignorance breeds hatred. Janan Najeeb has worked tirelessly to teach people about Muslims. I'll be working at the Muslim Film festival. I wonder what will happen.
- My spouse and I were visiting the area just miles from VA Tech the day after the shooting there. It amazed us how much the community came together and responded. It was sorrowful and people connecting that ordinarily wouldn't. Human goodness is where people came together.
- It made me wonder about the families of the Columbine shooters.
- My best man lives in Colorado and was a first responder at Columbine. He can't even talk about the horrors... and it seems to be just rippling out from there... I've become numb to the horror and tranced by the distractions to normalcy.... And it's getting easier each time it reoccurs.

Disconnection & Modern Technology

- When I grew up I lived in a world without interfacing screens. Is the world more dreamlike for those who interface with others only with screens? Communication used to happen face-to-face. That change scares me—it's harder to separate fantasy from reality.
- Screens make it easier for us to drift apart. Kids lose social skills. I don't use devices that much. You need to know a person so you can trust them.
- The play provided a very human look at an issue that the media tends to stereotype. Playgoers could see the father and the son as people, and could see their humanity.

Gun Control Concerns

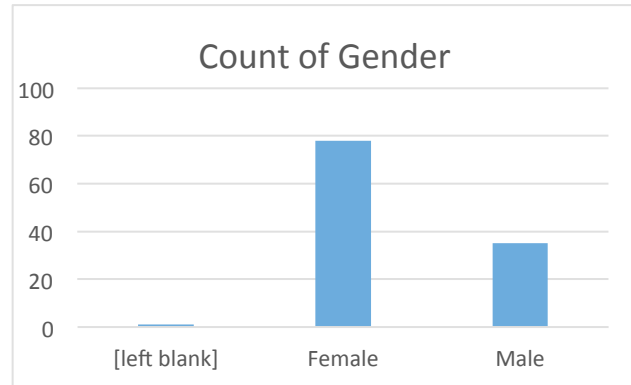
- I hunt and grew up with guns. I dislike the apathy of Americans who let the gun lobby lead the way in preventing any gun control. I just can't understand how we allow that! We need to overpower them.
- I had a mentally ill cousin who was involved as a perpetrator of gun violence. No one in my family held him or his parents responsible. Every time something like this happens we have to remember it is a whole person with a family and a life. Why isn't there a list of the mentally ill so they are prevented from buying guns?
- As a college instructor I am aware there could be a situation on campus at any time—especially with the concealed carry laws in Wisconsin. Guns don't make private citizens safer.

Misc.

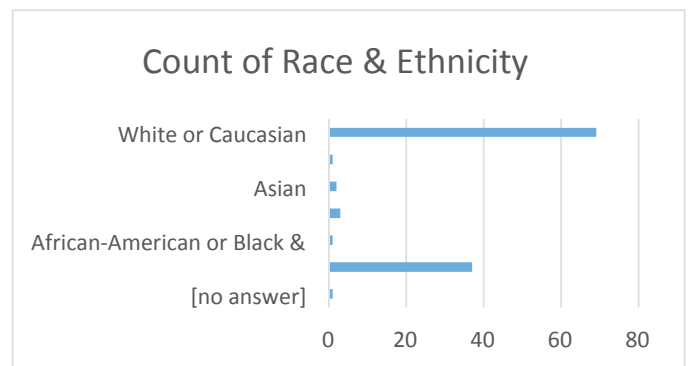
- I do not have any direct experience myself as child, teen, or young adult.
- I have heard about all the violence on the news but don't have a personal experience.
- I have been very fortunate in my life to not have experienced this type of horror. I see the hurt in the world and it breaks my heart. I realize that when people see this play that there will be differences of opinion or reactions according to worldview, culture and personal experience.
- The quest for cosmic or philosophical logic. For example a baby is born deformed, parents are angry. What is the fairness, sometimes it comes out well, sometimes it doesn't. As a parent what could he had done better?
- We all need to do a better job of listening to each other (including in our political elections).
- Sometimes we think this can't happen to us, we think it just happens to others in other places. Then I think this could have been me.
- The idea that you can't control certain things in life. I have friends that are in prison now and I really don't understand how they went down one road and I went down a different road.

Participant Demographics

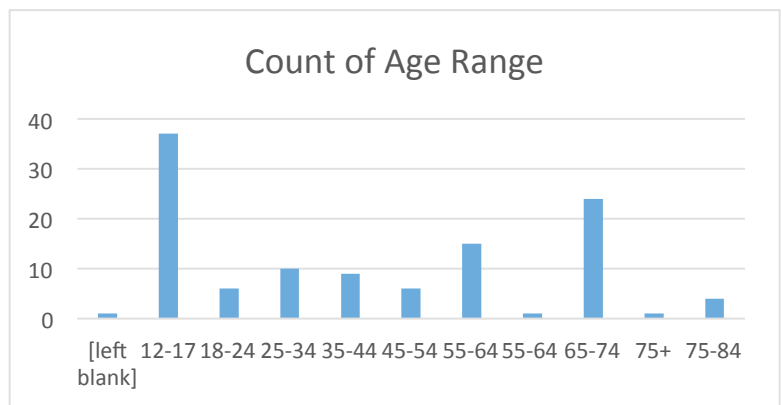
Gender	Count of Gender
[left blank]	1
Female	78
Male	35



Race & Ethnicity	Count of Race & Ethnicity
[no answer]	1
African-American or Black	37
Latino or Hispanic	3
African-American or Black/Latino or Hispanic	1
Asian	2
Mexican American	1
White or Caucasian	69



Age Range	Count of Age Range
[left blank]	1
12-17	37
18-24	6
25-34	10
35-44	9
45-54	6
55-64	15
55-64	1
65-74	24
75+	1
75-84	4



Feedback Form Responses

1.) Did Act II contribute positively to your experience of *American Song*?

Absolutely

- Group members openly shared personal experiences - youth participants were outstanding in sharing.
- It was a way to be able to express ourselves in this topic about gun violence.
- An opportunity to process a very important issue.
- Excellent discussion and brought out a lot of other ways of seeing parts of the play.
- Continue the conversation, esp. to speak w/ our youth.
- It showed me that we need to pay closer attention to things going on around us.
- I got to discuss great topics w/ wonderful people.
- Insightful comments - especially from the two teens present.
- I love hearing other peoples' perspectives.
- Good to talk.
- Diverse discussion with deep insights. Community building. Well led.
- Enjoyed sharing experiences.
- It helped me gain a deeper knowledge.
- We got comfortable with one another.
- Interesting conversation.
- Because everyone's stories had similarity of what happened in the play.
- Enlightenment causes one to grow.
- I believe our society lacks opportunities for these important conversations.
- We had a wonderful diverse group who shared experiences, not just opinions.
- Personal share and reflect. Interact.
- The play deserves community discussion.
- Diverse groups with thought-provoking questions.
- The young people were amazing.
- Because it really taught me something.
- Discussion is always valuable, and having new people to talk with is nice.
- It was a great format in which we could immediately discuss what we'd seen.
- Hearing other perspectives, challenging themes of the play.
- I appreciated the opportunity to talk about it with a variety of people.
- Nobody told you your opinion was wrong.
- Loved the message.
- Open dialogue is beneficial to really understand or getting better insight on why knowing is important.

- I love open dialogue after shows. I think it enhances and connects experiences.
- To hear the experiences of the teens really important to me.
- I could relate.
- Act II helped me grow in a sense. We talked about my experience with gun violence and that feedback I got helped me so much.
- Hearing how the play impacted others.
- Hearing about the different stories and situations that inspired or connected the audience to our groups was good to hear.
- Share experiences of others.
- A chance to connect with others.
- Diverse group.
- Great opportunity to see other perspectives.
- It was good to stop and talk about it. Good questions and feedback.
- Nice to share perspectives of others.
- Wonderful to hear other reactions.
- Well, when he was talking about the shooting at his son's school.

Yeah

- Helped me see other people's perspectives.
- It was appealing to me.
- It was refreshing to speak freely about real problems we face.
- Had opportunity to learn other's perspectives.
- It was an eye opener on present day problems and issues that are being overlooked.
- It gives me a clear picture of how things are.
- I had something to say about the play.
- It was empowering.
- Connections.
- Listening to young men from Running Rebels tell their story.
- It gave a chance to express our thoughts about it.
- Because we can put our thoughts down.
- Because you can express your view of society.
- Having other people's experiences and diverse ages.
- It forced me to think about and discuss the issues that I might have otherwise 'squashed.'
- Very interesting to listen to the different perspectives.
- It was eye opening.
- Gave us a chance to connect with others having different experience.
- Because I could relate.

- Nice to know that others want to change for the better.
- Made me reflect on similar experiences I have had.
- It was nice to hear different perspectives.
- Interesting listening to personal experiences.
- It gave more insight about how violence effects people.
- Because it was great to hear other personal stories and point of views.
- Some of the topics were relative to my life.
- I thought it was interesting to see what kinds of things other people took away from the show.

Somewhat

- Not a lively discussion; very scripted and controlled.
- I didn't have much to connect to.
- It was interesting to see other peoples' perspectives.
- I think the play's topic will bubble up for days. I need time to process it.
- Conversation was helpful/interesting, though not deeply about the play.
- Yes, to know more about it.
- Yes. I could relate to gun violence by my own experiences in life and how it could affect me personally.
- Fairly quiet group.

No response circled, comment provided

- Mixed emotions.
- Didn't understand the questions.

2.) Do you believe this experience strengthens community bonds?

Absolutely

- Connecting to the human heart.
- All ages discussing common concerns.
- We've all seen this play and how it effects people so now maybe we'll make a change.
- It allows people from all over to come together and speak about one topic with so many different takes on the topic.
- Getting to understand each other.
- The HUMANIZING aspect - we are all people.
- Yes, it's so important to talk about issues.

- Again, people from diverse backgrounds sharing ideas can lead to change.
- Anytime people get together to discuss issues is positive.
- It brings generations together to collaborate on topics.
- We need to listen more.
- Any conversation creates bonds.
- Good to hear from people with different perspectives. We are all in this together.
- Everyone needs to know violence is not the answer.
- Their perspective of others is often overlooked.
- More conversations with "strangers" about important community issues shape the way each participating individual thinks about the issues.
- We don't often get to meet others who are different from us but are willing to be vulnerable
- We need to interact and talk.
- This is true education.
- Well some people will change their ways by listening and answering questions.
- It helps take everyone's thoughts and put them together so we can all make consensus.
- Tough topics, but well-facilitated conversations.
- Because people get to hear from people with different experiences.
- Now people know what they can do to prevent.
- The communal response is significant.
- The more we can talk about it the better we are going to be able to connect and continue the talks.
- Promotes understanding.
- Connects youth and adults.
- A chance to find common ground.
- Yes, because everyone who is involved of gun violence or shooting need to watch this play.
- Talk is the first step to action.
- So good to be with other people sharing in a safe environment.
- It brings us together and allows us to share in a safe space.
- It gives you a different look to look at things and perspective on how dangerous it is in life today.
- It is essential to communicate.
- Enjoyed meeting new people.
- We get to meet people and their stories.
- Diverse people talking to each other.
- Because people can come together to share ideas and experience.
- This need to happen more often. Intergenerational and different races.
- Dialogue.

- People of different backgrounds come together and learn about each other.
- Everyone gets to express themselves.
- My perspective was shifted when I hear other people.

Yeah

- Because in a way we connect and come together as a community.
- Positive.
- But there needs to be more controlling the dialogue.
- It opens people's minds.
- Did not have a lot of things pertaining to my race.
- Once people see that we're trying to make a change maybe they will contribute.
- For those who participated small #.
- It was a very profound way to really look at the world in a different way.
- It lets people talk about plays with others.
- Always good to bring people together across the borders of Milwaukee that keeps us separate.
- Opened my mind to other situations.
- So we can get together and find solutions to gun violence.
- These discussions allow for discourse between demographics that otherwise would not happen.
- People are able to see how it effects the community.
- You get to hear people and what they thought.
- Wondering about white fragility.
- We can all possibly come together and learn that violence isn't the answer.
- It was great to sit with others who had a different set of experiences.
- Enabled us to connect with others having different experience.
- I got to communicate with people.
- It familiarizes on intergenerational dialogue.
- Good to hear about others perspectives.
- Talking about this helps us work as a community to find a solution.

Somewhat

- Hard to keep the momentum when "life" gets in the way. But we must keep trying.
- This was just a stepping stone to making our community better. I appreciate this opportunity to express this to our youth and hope we can continue to build.
- Feelings do not "stick" sometimes after the experience.

- Many such conversations will do this, but it is just the start. I applaud the effort.
- We have all the time, the community remains the same.
- Not long enough. Not intense enough.
- I can proclaim what I learned to others, but it's up to them what they do with the information.
- It just didn't really.
- Hopefully, but there needs to be discussions within communities not isolated at a play.
- The separation of certain communities are so separate they may not get through.
- Good for a small group. Need to expand. How to reach so many others that experience it every day?

No response circled, comment provided

- It has the potential.
- Not sure! Helped understanding!
- I hope so.
- Not really. People need to have more time to trust each other. Would be good to expand this.

3.) Are you likely to recommend this experience to others?

Absolutely

- Too much to share - so little time!
- Unique after a play, an opportunity to "debrief"
- To teach them that everything is not what it seems
- It was an AMAZING experience
- FANTASTIC!
- Yes, a very thought-provoking experience
- Jim DaVita is an astounding actor followed by discussion is wonderful
- We need more involvement and less sitting on sidelines complaining
- It helped expand my knowledge
- We need to share and support hope
- It's exciting
- I learned a lot and other can too
- We need to learn to listen to each other to better understand each other
- Meaningful

- Thought-provoking conversation in a facilitated discussion means that everyone feels valued
- To get people to tell others
- It's a great influence
- Empathy is born through community and discussion is a foundational element of building community
- Beautiful play, though tragic
- Because it was a great experience
- No people get a better understanding of victims
- Lesson
- It's important that our community talk about things like this
- It's a great event for all to experience
- We need more sharing of issues and feelings portrayed and shared
- A good chance to meet others you may not otherwise meet
- It's always important to be actively involved
- Never too much communication
- I want they know how I felt about it maybe they will want to watch it
- It's an experience people should allow themselves to be open to
- It was a unique experience that I've never experienced before and I heard what other people had to say
- Yes, maybe others would try harder to stop violence instead of stating negatives
- It was a great experience
- Great format for a dialogue. Loved that it was inter-generational
- Zeidler structured it well and it was easy to be truthful
- For help them make a change for America
- Amazing!
- We are all part of the solution
- You can meet new people and hear others' experiences
- Thanks!
- It was very interesting to be put in our own vulnerable positions and discuss openly
- I enjoyed my time here and I know others would love it
- Whether "sticks" or not, important to share
- We need to be in conversation with one another
- It was a great opportunity to be able to contribute thoughts and ideas.
- It's good
- It was a nice experience
- Makes you think about what what/how you do things
- Definitely. Worthwhile.
- Extremely powerful

- Because the play and dialogue were relevant and beneficial to today's culture
- It's cool
- It's a great way to learn
- Explores depth of helplessness of parents
- We all need to stop and listen to what is really happening with our neighbors
- So others can relate and it's cool

Yeah

- Not everyone is up for it, but was very enlightening.
- It will be nice.
- It is a good learning opportunity
- It's a good experience to see and also kind of feel how any parent would feel if they found out their kid had shot up their school.
- Interesting to discuss idea with strangers
- Can't hurt.
- Because it was an eye opener.
- Opportunity to hear other experiences.
- Peers would benefit from the conversation.
- It'll give them an open eye on what they're missing.
- Because it tells you about things that happening in the world.
- Because I think it's a good experience.
- It is important for these conversations to happen both on an individual level and a community level.
- Maybe they can take away from this and change how they perceive life.
- It was a very, very nice play and people would like it.
- Maybe they'll be as affected by it positively as I was.
- Good play, good discussion.
- It's a good way to debrief after a meaningful play.

Somewhat

- The participants seemed very cautious to participate.
- Some people might like it. I'm not sure.
- It's sometimes hard to talk about your opinions and experiences and I wouldn't recommend it to everyone.

No response circled, comment provided

- Need more time to be effective.