



**Presents**

# **LOOKING GLASS THEATRE**

***DIVERSITY - UNITY - COMMUNITY***

The mission of One Planet United Organization is:

*“To be a channel helping to create World peace, breaking down barriers that focus on differences, as well as promoting visionary ways to unite all people.”*

“Looking Glass Theatre” is one of our visionary ways of uniting *all* people who can often times see differences and forget that it is truly our hearts and our souls that join us together as people. Our religious affiliation, skin color, financial status, political beliefs and other ways we may be different from one another should not be areas that divide us as people. We believe that if we begin at the local community level with programs like “Looking Glass Theatre” town by town and city by city will grow to where people can break down any walls that often divide them from others, thus coming closer to a peaceful world.

If you need further help in bringing “Looking Glass Theatre” to life in your school or community, you can call us at (954) 340-2115 or 1-866-340-2115 or email us at [info@opunited.org](mailto:info@opunited.org). We’ll be here to help in any way we can.

Copyright © 2005

## **Looking Glass Theatre**

The “Looking Glass Theatre” program was created to bring a message of unity to a place that often times is divided, mainly due to peer and social pressures. It is comprised of an assortment of short plays that are acted out in drama presentations by young people in such groups as:

- High School and Middle School Drama Groups
- High School and Middle School Peer Groups
- College Drama Clubs
- OPU Clubs
- Community Youth Groups
- Religious Congregational Youth Groups

The plays are designed and written for the purpose of bringing a very impactful and hard hitting message to mainly young people. They are meant to communicate the harmful effects that prejudice, intolerance and division of any kind bring to society and in particular, to their own school and community. The message is one that stirs emotion and thought in each young person in attendance. In addition, the audience members will learn where they can be more accepting of the people they come in contact with every day that might be different from them in many ways.

A few years back, we all experienced the horrific day at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. We were stunned and shocked to see the carnage, pain, sadness and terror that was brought to light on what was supposed to be just another typical day in the life of high school teenagers. Through ongoing media coverage today, we continue to see acts of violence in other areas of the country that seem to come at us with much too much frequency. Although these tragedies are not the norm, divisiveness, prejudice, and lack of respect for others is often a critical problem amongst young people. Bullying, intolerance of different lifestyles, inappropriate humor and peer group superiority create unhealthy environments that sometimes can lead to tragic situations but more often just stifle a spirit of harmony, unity and the ability to accept one another.

When young people are able to witness the messages that have been created in “Looking Glass Theatre,” it will leave them with an embedded picture of how much harm can be done when they relate to their peers in a divisive way. On the opposite side, these messages should create such a positive impact that the spirit of harmony among them is sure to reach new heights.

## Creative ideas

Have “Looking Glass Theatre” be the focal point of a school assembly or community event. Create a special theme for the event. Some examples of a theme title could be:

- Diversity Happens... Unity is a Choice.
- Community in Unity Day.
- Respecting Ourselves, Each Other, and All of Humanity.
- (Name) High School. “Through the Looking Glass.”
- (Name) High School “Celebrating Humanity.”

At the conclusion of the performance, it is recommended that the audience break up into small groups to process the messages that were witnessed in the short plays. If breaking into groups is not possible, an open question and answer period can take place among the whole group. (At the end of each short play, there are sample questions that can stimulate discussion from the message of the story.) This time can be dedicated to sharing about the messages they witnessed and how they might have seen themselves in their own experience. It is best if they break into small groups that do not consist of their immediate peers. It will give them the opportunity to meet others that might be different than they are, thus creating an atmosphere of new understanding and awareness of their fellow students. When young people experience the messages of the “Looking Glass Theatre” short plays, it should not be difficult to create dialogue and process ideas and possible alternatives for change.

## Who performs “Looking Glass Theatre” Short Plays?

### **Middle School, High School and College Drama Clubs:**

This is an ideal opportunity to involve those students who are considering acting as a career. This will give them another opportunity to practice their craft as well as be able to be a part of a school outreach project that can bring unity and understanding to their school. The goal is to not only have the students perform these skits in their own schools, but to possibly perform them at other regional schools, Boys and Girl’s clubs, Y.M.C.A.’s and other community centers in their area. It can be a powerful outreach project and can also be a vehicle for students to achieve community service hours.

Although One Planet United provides pre-written scripts to use, this is also an opportunity for students who are considering writing careers. Students can write their own scripts that contain messages of tolerance, unity and understanding.

### **OPU Clubs:**

If the school has an OPU Club, this is a way to carry the message of One Planet United to your school and community.

### **Community Youth Groups:**

YMCA's, Boy's and Girl's Clubs and similar organizations can perform "Looking Glass Theatre" short plays to spread the message in their community.

### **Church and Synagogue Youth Groups:**

The messages of "Looking Glass Theatre" short plays although secular in nature, can have a profound effect on youth groups teaching tolerance, unity and compassion for all people.

### **Additional and optional ideas:**

#### **"Looking Glass DANCE Theatre"**

Many schools and community groups have dance groups that practice and perform in the school curriculum as well as in after school clubs. "Looking Glass *Dance* Theatre" are choreographed dance numbers that relate to any song that has words that honor humanity and the human spirit. A high quality sound system is strongly recommended.

As part of the whole program, these dance numbers can be inter-mingled with regular "Looking Glass Theatre" short plays. The dance numbers can be performed at the beginning, the end or during the main program. The choreography and music would have to be created by either the dance teacher or the students themselves.

Listed below are some music selections that embrace the OP United mission and vision.

#### **"River of Life" by David Foster - Atlantic Records.** From "The River of Life" album.

This song has a very powerful message that all nations and all people are one and that each person must decide how they will treat each other. Also has a great dance beat and rhythm.

#### **"You're The Voice" by David Foster – Atlantic Records** From "The River of Life" album.

This song speaks strongly about the need to speak out for peace as well as the need to join together to have a greater chance of being heard. Great music and rhythms to combine with dance.

**“Niki Nana” by Yanni** – Virgin Records  
From the “Tribute” album.

The words “Niki Nana” mean WE ARE ONE. This powerful musical piece is especially good when used as a dance number. Yanni, the composer of the song, closes all of his concerts with this piece, to remind everyone present that peace is possible in the world if we all realize that at the core of who we are, we are truly one in the family of humanity.

**Let’s Talk About Love” by Celine Dion** - Sony Records  
From the “Let’s Talk about Love”album.

A beautiful, slower song about loving and caring for *all* people.  
Children’s voices in background.

“Looking Glass Theatre” Tee-Shirts:

One Planet United offers a “Looking Glass Theatre” tee shirt specially designed for this program event. The shirts can be passed along to audience participants as a reminder of the messages that they have just experienced. The cost for “Looking Glass Theatre” tee-shirts can sometimes be underwritten by a local business or company that is in alignment with this program. (See Corporate Sponsorships.) Approximate cost is \$8.00 each plus shipping charge. Total costs depend on how many logos are used and set up charges for each logo. School or organization name can be placed on the sleeve or back of the shirt. It will be a great ongoing reminder to all those in attendance. Call One Planet United at (954) 340-2115 or 1-866-340-2115 for more information and pricing. (6) Weeks delivery is needed.



**SIZES AVAILABLE: Small to XX-Large**

**COLORS AVAILABLE:**

**White**

**Special colors available upon request  
with 36 piece minimum order  
(Prepayment required.)**

(Note: Tee-Shirts can be ordered individually with no minimum order. If you want your school or organization name included, a minimum order of 36 shirts and payment in advance is required.)

## Corporate Sponsorship:

Sponsorship for the cost of the “Looking Glass Theatre” tee shirts can often be underwritten by a local business or company. It is a good fit for them to use their promotional dollars to sponsor local school and community events. A letter can be mailed to any potential companies that have been designated as potential sponsors for the event. Often times, it will be a company or business whose president or owner have or have had children in the school or other community programs and are eager to help promote unity among young people. A sample letter has been prepared as an example to try to solicit a business or company to subsidize the cost of the tee shirts. (See form LGT#1)

When a company or business commits to covering the costs of the tee shirts, you can direct them to call One Planet United at 954 340-2115 or email us at [info@opunited.org](mailto:info@opunited.org) to place the order and set up direct billing. This way, the school or community organization does not have to get involved in cost or billing. One Planet United will work directly with the company and the school or community group to set up the artwork that will be applied to the tee-shirt. ie: school and company logos.

SEE SAMPLE TEMPLATE LETTER – (Form LGT #1)

## Script Submission:

We invite all writers to submit scripts for use in the Looking Glass Theatre program. All submissions will be reviewed by One Planet United and will be considered to be part of the offering of short plays we make available to schools, community centers and youth groups. If your short play is accepted, we will contact you and let you know. A waiver will then be sent to you to be signed that gives One Planet United Organization permission to use your script in our programs.

Script content must contain a message that is aligned with One Planet United principles. (See Our Mission and Our Vision). The length of the script should be 8-10 minutes when acted out on stage.

To discuss your submission further, you can email us at [info@opunited.org](mailto:info@opunited.org) or call 954-340-2115. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **NOTE:**

One Planet United Programs/Templates are continually being updated. Please visit our website often for most recent updates.

(Sample Form - LGT#1)

Sample school letter for corporate sponsorship - modify as needed if program is being presented by community groups or congregational youth groups.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

(School name) announces a very special school spirit day coming up on (Day) (Month) (Year) called:

***“Respecting Ourselves, Each Other and All of Humanity”***

*This event comes from a program called “Looking Glass Theatre” that was developed by One Planet United, a non profit humanitarian organization devoted to bringing unity and understanding to all people. The program consists of a collection of short drama plays that are designed to have the students be able to look into their own lives and see where prejudice, intolerance and division might be present. These short plays have a powerful message for all who attend. It is known that if there is to be a chance of peace in the world, it has to first be achieved with our neighbors that we relate to everyday. For students, their closest neighbors are the young people they relate to everyday in school and in their neighborhood. Town by town and city by city, we have a greater chance of peace and unity with others if our young people are getting a message of care and respect for **all** people and in this instance, with their fellow students at school.*

*We are writing to you to ask if you will participate as a sponsor of this event. We are trying to raise (cost) to cover the cost of special “Looking Glass Theatre” tee shirts that will be given to every student in attendance. At the current time, we are estimating that we will need (number) shirts at an approximate cost of \$8.00 each. These tee shirts have been specially designed by One Planet United, a 501(c)3 non profit organization, for this special event and will be a reminder to all who participate of the importance of tolerance and respect amongst their peers. Your company name and logo will be displayed on the back of the shirt along with (school). By linking your company with this very special event, you will be elevating young people’s lives in your community and promoting your business as well.*

*We thank you in advance for your participation. You will be helping to bring unity and a greater chance for peace here locally in our community and beyond.*

*Sincerely,*

*(Name) Drama Teacher*

*(Name) High School Drama Club*

*Phone:*

*Email:*

(letter can also be sent from parent volunteer, booster club volunteer, youth leader etc.)

## Looking Glass Theatre Short Plays: (Content descriptions)

### **“We All Bleed”**

A man that has lived a life of hatred, indifference and prejudice toward most people is in dire need of a blood transfusion if he is to stay alive. He has been severely injured in a car accident and has been rushed to the ER of a local hospital. He ends up sacrificing his own life to stay true to the prejudice and hatred that is in his heart.

*Sometimes we will go to extreme lengths to be true to the many forms of prejudice, hatred and intolerance in our lives.*

### **“Thursdays with Martin”**

An old man is visited each week by his grandson. The grandson is eager to continue to discover all of the great wisdom his grandpa has to share. This particular day, the grandpa shares his deepest regrets along with a wish that he hopes his grandson will share with anyone and everyone who will listen. Its message is one he believes the whole world could benefit from hearing.

*Focuses on seeing all people in the world as our brothers and sisters and the importance of not waiting until the end of our life to realize it.*

### **“The Human Race”**

Story of a light skinned black girl who was adopted as a 2 year old by Jewish parents. She goes through her whole childhood and teenage years being teased and humiliated. She would always be asked the question, “What race are you?” and she never really knew how to answer. She would ask herself if she was black or white, Christian or Jewish, African, Spanish, Cuban, South American etc. She didn’t really know. Finally one day when she has been beaten down so long, she reaches deep down to find a powerful answer.

*Addresses the harm of teasing in regards to someone’s race and that we ultimately all belong to the same race. The human race.*

### **“The Family of Humanity”**

Four game show contestants are out to win the grand prize of \$1,000,000 if they can stay away from the one wrong answer to each question. One of the contestants keeps coming up with the one wrong answer and can’t figure out why. He comes to realize that if he is going to win on the show and more importantly in life, he is going to have to begin looking for some new answers.

*Emphasizes the importance of seeing individuals for who they are and not what racial, political, religious or social group they happen to be affiliated with.*

### **“The Circle”**

A circle has formed that speaks of hatred, fear and division, and is gaining momentum until one girl’s voice is heard in a different light. She brings a powerful message to the attention of others which in time turns the circle into one of unity, hope and a chance for peace and brotherhood among *all* people.

*Hatred, intolerance and division often come from seeing others as being from a certain group rather than as fellow human beings. Shows many stereotypes and some of the ways people relate to others that are “different” than themselves. Also addresses the need to do away with labels that people often put on others.*

### **“Hey Man, That Ain’t Funny”**

A TV talk show host whose nightly monologue normally has the audience howling runs into a different kind of audience on this particular night. As a matter of fact, this audience becomes so upset with his brand of humor; they begin a monologue of their own in a face off with the host himself.

*The message here is that certain things hurt other people very deeply with inappropriate humor. Also, it offers a challenge to stand up to anyone who is joking about something that is offensive or inappropriate. Mainly race, religion, sexual orientation, weight or height, and other people’s hardships.*

### **“Going Down?”**

Two firemen find themselves thrust upon a rescue situation of four people trapped in an elevator. It is the first time the two have been partnered together as a rescue team. When it is time to begin pulling the victims to safety, one of the firemen can’t bring himself to help them based on the fact that he has prejudices against each one. The situation reveals that even in a tragic situation like this, he can’t reach out to help them. Eventually, the tables are turned and he suddenly finds himself hurt and in need of help from the same people that he couldn’t get himself to reach out to. The help he receives not only brings him to safety but gives him new lessons for living as well.

*When a fireman is rescuing a person from a life and death situation, does he even have time to think about who the person is he is trying to help? He’s trying to save the live of a person. A human being. Do our prejudices keep us from reaching out to help or care for others who might be one of “them”?*

### **“A Playground Dialogue”**

Three 5th grade students are playing at the local town playground. They begin a dialogue that is a result of conversations that one of the boys continually overhears his parents having in his own home. Somehow, he feels like something is wrong with the way his parents feel about certain groups of people and it has been troubling him. He soon finds that his friends are hearing the same things in their homes and have the same feelings. As the conversation continues, a big brother of one of the children comes along and answers some of their questions. He helps them come to an agreement that when it comes to spreading prejudice and intolerance, they will be doing things differently when they grow up.

*Young children are extremely impressionable at this age and most of what they learn about other people and groups of people come from adults in their lives. What did we learn from the adults in our lives and how do we see others that are different than us?*

***The following short plays are copyright material. They are to be used for educational purposes only and may be copied or downloaded from the One Planet United website. Using these short plays for profit is strictly prohibited.***