

Descriptions: Duo Interpretations

1. Brothers

Two brothers reflect on the span of their lives as they deal with their personal shortfalls. Coming from the same place and growing in different directions is a struggle to accept. In the end, the commitment and love that they have for each other will be put to the ultimate test. Through all of life's challenges they are always going to be Brothers.

2. Jumping Rope

Lena and Leonard are twins, and they act like it. Through their childhood, they fought like siblings do, but when their father passes away, Leonard learns to cope and Lena became an alcoholic. Lena found that the only way she could see her father was when she was drunk, and this drove her to continue drinking. As much as Leonard tries over and over to help his sister get clean, he finally decides that the best thing to do is to cut her off. Lena continues to sink until she stands outside of an AA Meeting and takes the first step to get clean. It is through Lena working on her steps to sobriety that she realizes that what she needs to move forward is to go back to her brother. Leonard made it clear that their relationship is over until she gets clean, and it is in their reunion that she can reflect on the death of her father and sees it for what it really was and not what she remembers it to be. Through it all, Lena and Leonard work to love each other for who they have been and eventually for who they are.

3. Missing

A husband and wife must come together and support one another through a parents' worst nightmare, a missing child. From the presence of the media to the internal horror that each parent goes through these parents go through the worst days of their lives and may or may not ever see their child again.

4. My Sister's Special

The level of acceptance and tolerance that it takes to befriend a child with disabilities is immeasurable. When it is brother and sister it makes the bond that much stronger. They laugh and they cry but they will always love each other and everything that they hold each other's hand through. We are all unique but not every brother sister relationship is this special.

5. Something in His Eyes

The relationship between husband and wife is challenged when someone has a secret that could not only change their love but also their life. As one gains a level of freedom the other finds themselves completely lost. A 'coming out' story that lets us know that there may never be a right time to tell the truth, but the truth must be told.

6. My Brother the Squirrel

Brother and sister fight, play, love, and hate but in the end, they are side by side with each other through it all. And as life's unexpected cards are played, they find that the only support they have is in one another and it is the only hand they need.

7. Reflecting

Sometimes in life the only person we think we can count on is ourselves. For Lucas he wakes up one morning to a reflection of the person that he will soon become. He can talk to himself and ask questions but once he is told that he will die soon, things begin to change. He must immediately change his life choices to save his life. But this gift comes with the reality of how a bad decision can affect the rest of his life. Lucas is left with a choice: he can change and save a life, or he can continue to spiral, and the gift of self will be lost forever. Fighting a fight within yourself can prove to be one of the most difficult fights to win.

8. In the Background

A couple whose relationship was created in the world of music finds it difficult to walk away from the life they had for the one they desire. For Cole leaving the music may be the worst thing to ever happen in his life but to Natalie, the family will always be of the most importance. Through their love for each other they can sing their way through some of their problems but sometimes communication is still lost. Will Cole change his feelings toward the possibility of fatherhood to create a family with his wife or will he step to the microphone and never let it go?

9. Letting Go

One of the most difficult things to do as human beings is to let go. Letting go requires that we allow time to separate our hearts from the person or the event that has been holding on so desperately. For Jessi and Jake, they are more than just brother and sister, they are friends. And when one of them dreams they both dream, when one of them hurts they both hurt. But as Jessi speaks at her baby brother's funeral, we hear the love that she has for him and letting him go may be the most difficult things she has ever had to do.

10. Chapters

Marriage is one of the most beautiful relationships that we can engage in. In Chapters we follow husband and wife, and they prepare for the birth of their first child. But as the delivery date nears Lacy begins to change. Is it a result of the growing life in her body or is it a terrible secret that could cost her everything her love knows and loves? Time passes, the baby is born, and Lacy and Kevin must decide if their love can stand the test of time or live until tomorrow.

11. No Shame in Love

When executive Elisha Lexington meets Will, the janitor they have a happy exchange both realizing that they are from two different worlds. But on this night, they decide to put their difference of class aside and just be two normal people. This begins the life of love that the two of them share. Through the saxophone that Will plays we hear the love that he has for her, and the music serves as a connection to them share. But like all relationships the time comes that Will realizes that he is not Elisha's equal, at least not in public. He decides that he will not be hidden by her, and she must confront the ghosts of her past that say that your financial class is the most important thing that makes you who you are. In the end will their love triumph, or will the views of others stop their love from growing?

12. Sisterhood

Halli and Mary are sisters. Like most sisters they laugh and cry together and support each other through even the toughest of times. Halli is the big sister and Mary is her annoying little sister. Through a series of scenes, we see them grow through being children, teens and adults and the challenges that were faced. During addictive behavior Halli finds herself falling down a hole that she looks to her sister to pull her out of. Mary, being the great sister, she is never gives up on her sister. In the end the bond of the two sisters is challenged many times but they can hold each other's hand for the strongest support and most important love of all.

13. Coming of Age

Lacie is a wonderful little girl full of energy and a positive light. But early in her life she experiences the worst kind of broken trust when she is molested by her father. Her child mind could not handle the abuse she was experiencing. To balance the abuse, she created a best friend that she could talk to all the time that would always be there for her during those times. Mr. Pickles became her savior, her best friend and the one person in desperate times that she could close her eyes and know he would be there. But as Lacie comes of age, she finds that a friend like Mr. Pickles can not to be kept to herself. Mr. Pickles eventually tells her that there are other children that need him like she did. It is a difficult breakup but as an adult she realizes and accepts that she must let her best friend go.

14. In Her Memory

A beautiful story of two sisters who are trying their best to make sense of Alzheimer's Disease and how it is affecting the life of their mother. As the older sister Amber is in the position to make the decisions that she feels is best, but she cannot leave her little sister Stacy out of the process. Though Stacy is not ready to accept the reality of the debilitating disease the sisters must work together to prepare for the loss of their mother. Lea, their mother, she is fun and loving and is trying to understand the things that she can remember while not allowing her

daughters to feel sorry for her or her situation. This is a beautiful story of daughters and their mother getting ready for the ultimate goodbye.

15. Love Choices

Diego is a young Latino teenager who has recently joined a local gang. He feels like this was the only way that he can get and give love. His girlfriend Camila desperately wants him to leave behind the gang life and focus on the positive things that they could accomplish together. When Camila catches Diego with a gun as he is headed out to make a run for the gang, Camila confronts him with his choices and in the end gives him an ultimatum either give her the gun and stays away from the gang or he continues to be devoted to the gang but without her by his side. The choice is his to make.

16. Birthday Blues

In this comical coming of age story, we meet Jamie. She is the typical middle school girl who wants to have the typical middle school birthday party. After her mom says yes she realizes that the biggest problem is yet to come. With a slew of friends and their opinions on who should be on the invitation list, Jamie confides in her true best friend, her Diary. Diary lets her know that if the party isn't for her happiness, then she shouldn't have it. Imagine the joy of Jamie's mom when she finally concludes that maybe a birthday party isn't the way to celebrate her middle school years.

17. Mi Hermana Acepta Cambio (Translated: My Sister Accepts Change)

Jessica is the older of the two sisters. Ayala is fighting how her parents went through to get the girls from Mexico to America. Starting when they are young children passing through their years in the freedom of America the sisters have held on to and supported each other. Jessica is the solid rock and Ayala is the quick-witted baby sister who must deal with the anger that she has towards her mother. Their mother decided to stay behind and send the girls with their father through the desserts of Mexico to cross the border into America. For Ayala the risk wasn't worth the reward, for Jessica she understood that this was the ultimate sacrifice for her children. **The girls frequently speak Spanish. This is not a must, but a performance option.*

18. Level of Connection

Lyle and Lindsey are twins. They were born together. They grew up together. But like no regular set of twins, they will never have their own lives. They are Siamese twins. When the only way they can have separate lives is through their dreams we find that what both want is the freedom to live the dreams that they have. We get to see the joy that their dreams bring them and the sadness that overcomes them when they must come back to reality. Through all their wonderful action filled dreams we

see that they may be connected but they are definitely individuals and special in their own way.

19. Resurrected Past

Mara and Melonie are two sisters living in the memory of their lives as children and the years after. When one of the sisters is beaten to death by her boyfriend the other finds herself remembering their lives as children and being the product of an abusive home. Mara is the older sister who is lost without her sister, so she chooses to keep her spirit alive by talking to her while packing their parent's house. The house where their mother was abused by their father. For Mara she doesn't understand how they could grow up in an abusive household and her sister Melonie grow up and fall victim to the same abuse. As Melonie speaks to her Mara realizes that sometimes the things that we fear the most end up being the only reality we must hold on to.

20. Shadows of My Sister

It is said that there is no bond greater than that of twin sisters, but for Camila and Ana this couldn't be farther from the truth. Camila is the oldest and is recounting one of the most difficult relationships in her life, the one with her twin sister Ana. Ana was a dancer and everything that her immigrant parents expected her to be with all the freedoms given to them as first generation born American citizens. Camila stayed in the shadows allowing her sister to always take the lead. Camila must address the feelings that she has for her sister when Ana comes to her to tell her that her time is limited. As Ana prepares to take her last bow Camila must stand as her big sister, and sit front row as she watches the curtain close on her sister's life. *Some Spanish is included in this cutting.

21. Unsung Signs

Joanna and Allen are best friends in every way. They grew up together, went to college together and now live together. Their comedy is quite special. Allen is a fabulous dancer; Joanna is an accomplished singer, and they are both making their dreams come true. But when Joanna finds out that she is going deaf she leans on Allen for support and like the friend he is, he chooses to change the course of his life to help his friend through the most difficult part of her life. They learn sign language together learning that even if you have no voice, you can still speak. Life gives them a challenging hand to play but with each other there for support they come out on top. Allen and Joanna signing and singing through the toughest times of their relationship and coming out on top. **(Piece requires both actors sign)**

22. Transforming Our History

When two female college students must work together to better understand the differences between races an African American student Aminia and a Hispanic

student Lucia find themselves face to face with adversity. Aminia and Lucia both speak passionately about the separate struggles of their cultures. They are two strong women who know where they come from as well of always having a connection to home, and where home is. The request was simple, “Challenge you partner” but when these two women begin to challenge one another they realize that they have more in common than a college class and an assignment. They form a bond that will stretch over continents. In the wake of the passing of Nelson Mandela Aminia decides to revisit her birthplace to help her people, as Lucia decides to go on a journey to find her mother that was left behind in her difficult crossing of the border. Will these women make it back from their journeys or will they just be memories in each other’s hearts?

23. Seeking the Crown

Sisters Heather and Melissa are close in age and are the best of friends. They are, however, living two very different lives. Heather is the beauty queen, literally. From childhood her mother has put her into beauty pageants because she is the pretty one. Melissa is the plus size sister. Not as skinny but just as beautiful and just as special as her sister. When Heather gets to the point of not being able to handle the pressure of “being beautiful” Melissa confronts her about her complaints by making her see their lives through her eyes. In the end after a tragic accident Heather gets to stand in the background and support Melissa as she takes the stage for the first time. Like all sisters, they have their differences and like all sisters they overcome by standing together. Both seeking acceptance and both *seeking the crown*.

(Not a requirement but Melissa should be able to sing.)

24. Spice of Life

Sam and Ashley have been friends since they were in elementary school. They meant on career day, the first day that Sam baked for Ashley, and it was best friends ever since. Being friends has forced them to change the course of their lives unknowingly for each other. Sam passes on an opportunity to attend a culinary school because Ashley said that she didn’t think it was the time or place for him. Eventually he decides, some years later, that he must leave Ashley for himself, so that he can grow. She supports him in the decision, but they desperately miss each other. Sam spirals into a dark level of depression and takes his own life. He leaves Ashley a message on the note; he wants her to always think of him when she cooks. The scene ends with Ashley baking a cake with Sam present in spirit and helping her measure everything out just right.

25. Seeking Through Dreams

Luis and his father Manuel have always had a strong relationship. Manuel brought Luis from El Salvador to America in hopes of giving him a better life than what was available for him when he was growing up. Luis loves his father and how close they are but when he decides that he wants to know who he is and where he came from,

truly. It is then that his father turns into a man he has never seen. Trying to hide his true history from his son, Luis tells him he is going to El Salvador and isn't coming back until he has answers. Manuel is forced to tell him the truth about his mother, that he didn't have permission from her to bring Luis to America but did it for him. Everything that Manuel did was for the future of his son. Will Luis listen to his father and stay in the only home he knows, or will he leave to a land that he doesn't know looking for answers to a life he doesn't know?

26. Big Brother, Little Brother

The story of two brothers Brian and Aaron. They have a very strong relationship and love each other very much. As the big brother Aaron tries his best to keep his brother safe and secure but he cannot beat the power of their abusive father. The older the boys get the more they want to run away from their lives, their situation, and their father. After Brian endures a beating, he decides to kill himself, during the suicide attempt Aaron finds him and saves his life. Brian had begged his brother to get him out of the house and during trying to make that happen Brian gave up. After being saved Brian confronts his father about their lives and the abuse they have endured, they have a fight and before Brian could hurt him his father grabs his chest and falls to the ground. He never tells Aaron of the fight, but he does talk him into finally leaving for good, two brothers, hand in hand.

27. Beats of Music

Kelly is in love with Jason. Jason is a famous singer in a band and the figure of her affection. When she wins an opportunity to meet him in person, she falls even deeper in love with him. They begin a relationship of convenience. One where she is madly in love with him, and he is playing the game with her. It is not until Kelly begins to question his intentions that she finds out that he is, in fact, a serial killer. She follows him and watches him kill an unsuspecting woman. She then steps out of the shadows and confronts him about what he has done. He explains to her why he does what he does. That the only people that he kills are people who have done wrong. In the end she kisses him. Is she just as crazy as he is? Or is she now playing the same game that he is playing?

28. Love Is in The Air

In this serio-comedy piece we see a couple Luke and Seth. After Luke is spoken to by a passing UFO and told to tell the world of their return, he takes it very seriously. The comedy between the two of them is great joy and fun. They love each other. The first person he tells is his partner Seth who is not a believer in the situation but is a believer in him. He decides that helping him to spread the word will be a great opportunity for him to bond with Luke. With every minute they spend together he begins to feel more like things are going back to the way that their life use to be. In the end the aliens do return and Seth and Luke hand in hand go with them.

29. A Little Push

Best friends Liza and Nicole are dancers. They live together, they audition together, and they support each other like family. When Liza starts acting funny; unable to remember simple dances, spacing out, and other odd behavior Nicole calls her parents to come out and take her to the doctor. She is quickly diagnosed with Schizophrenia. Nicole then watches her best friend deteriorate into someone that she no longer recognizes but will always love. She holds her friends' hand through this tough time while accepting that all she has now are the memories of who her friend use to be a beautiful dancer with all the love and clarity in the world. ***One actor is Black and the other is Latina for this performance.**

30. Different Time, Same Story

Amid the death of Trayvon Martin, we find a lost boy and a case of history repeating itself. Trayvon Martin has just wandered into a strange place. At the gates he is greeted by another murdered black boy named Emmitt Till. It is Emmitt's job to welcome new black boys into Heaven but during the greeting he has to explain to Trayvon where he is and why he is there. Through a series of interactions Trayvon must accept his life is over and this new chapter is about to begin but in order to do that he must see his life for what it is not what it was. Showing the audience that though these two boys were born in different eras, some things in history have not changed.

31. Street Blues

Blues Man is an older African American homeless man that is a blues singer. Like all homeless people he has a story to tell that is one of grief and loss. His world is disrupted when Maci staggers into his "home" after she has run away from hers. The two of them form a bond that is special. For Maci, her stepfather has become more important than she is in the eyes of her mother but after experiencing secret abuse she runs away to save her life but, in the end, returns to save her little sister from the same fate. For Blues Man Maci reminds him of a life that he has long left. His wife and daughter have moved on from him because he was more interested in the music that he was in being a husband and a father. But when Maci enters his house, he sees her as an opportunity for him to save someone who reminds him of his child. They form a bond that is like that of a father and his daughter, one that is precious and everlasting.

32. Breaking Loves Border

Matt is a Border Patrol agent who is dedicated to his job and to defending the border of the United States of America. Cecilia, a woman trying to cross the border illegally from Mexico finds herself looking down the barrel of Matt's gun when she is caught. There is something in Cecilia that makes him put his gun away and direct her to safety. After she recovers from her injuries Matt takes her in, they fall in love and are in the midst of preparing for their wedding when Matt's boss finds out of the situation. He gives Matt an ultimatum: turn Cecilia over to border agents to return

her to Mexico or lose his job and be arrested for the laws that he broke to get her into the country. Will love win out or will Matt decided to leave all that he knows behind for the woman who unknowingly changed his life?

33. Beauty Is a Queen

In the world of pageantry all women think they are the queen, but only one woman can wear the winning crown. In this hilarious scene we see Beth, the diva of divas preparing for yet another competition but when someone has to be replaced her friend Beverly who is backstage doing her hair jumps in to fill in. We have a killer combination of contestants, hosts, stage manager, production manager with the attitude of a tiger and a great pair of cargo pants, makeup crew and others who let us see backstage during this competition. Talent, question and answer and other variations of competition categories are all explored. When the crown is awarded only one woman will hold the title as Miss Local Regional National World Beauty Queen.

34. Heroes of Adventure

Nicholas, an autistic boy has the most amazing imagination. He is a wonderful reader; reading is his greatest talent. Sometimes he wonders why he isn't like everyone else, why he can't do what everyone else can do and why he was picked to be so "special." Luckily, he has a wonderful teacher in his life named Evelyn. She doesn't have any children of her own, but she treats all of the students she teaches as if they were her own. Through his favorite book we are able to see the world how Nicholas sees it. The good things and the bad and even the reasons that he sees himself the way that he does. This is a comedic, high energy multi character piece with a great amount of heart and a warm and necessary message. We are all made to be different, but all to be loved.

35. Fostering Care

Sam has been in a foster home all her life. She is seasoned on how things happen and has low expectations of getting adopted. Chrissy is new to the foster care system and when she comes to the home the two girls form a bond that continues to grow and support each other through the years of their life. Over a simple game of "Slaps" the girls decide that all they need in this world is each other. As time passes and the girls continue to not be adopted, they both begin to question if this is ever possible and should they even hold out hope that someone will love them the way they love each other, like family. With their eighteenth birthdays approaching the girls have decided to stay together after they are released from foster care and have made future plans, but these plans fall apart when months before they are set to leave, Chrissy gets adopted. Will the girls be able to maintain their relationship, or will Sam be so hurt that she walks away from her only family forever?

36. Inside the Big House

Elma is a slave on the Landon plantation. When Mrs. Landon discovers that her husband has been intimate with her, she decides that the only way she can stay in control of the situation is to keep her enemies closer. He brings Elma into the house and treats her worse than she was treated when she was working outside. Mrs. Landon vowed to never allow her to see or speak to her family again even though they were just footsteps away. As the scene develops Elma voices her feelings on the situation realizing that Mrs. Landon is truly an evil woman. Mrs. Landon then uses Elma's faith to teach her and the slaves on the plantation a very valuable lesson, you do not cross the master's wife. Mrs. Landon puts an evil spin on the baptismal water when she drags Elma to the river and "baptizes" her in the name of all that is right and just, in her eyes. Forcing her family to watch as she fights for her life.

37. The Other Side of Me

Sisters Dorothy and Denise have spent all of their lives together as sisters. Within any sibling relationship there will always be times when you don't see eye to eye. The two women are now elderly and living together in and their bond is stronger than ever, but Dorothy has always felt a level of guilt when it comes to her sister Denise as they went years without talking to each other. Dorothy found love in an abusive man and lost her direction in life. In the midst of Denise trying to assist her sister in finding the strength to leave him they have a fight that ends with one walking out and never looking back. Through the years the woman live their separate lives but true family bond will always bring you back together. When the sister reunite it is more than either one of them thought it could be. They love each other, they work through their issues and above all they forgive each other and find that there is so strong that no man nor time could keep them apart.

38. Missing Dancer in Snow

Tabitha is a teenage girl who loves her little sister Shelly. She loves her laugh, her personality and per positive energy. When she takes her sister to the grocery store for a seemingly simple trip and returns to the car with no Shelly, Tabitha must deal with the reality that her sister is gone. Throughout the scene we see Tabitha's relationship with Shelly soar to new levels and finally Tabitha gets her wish when Shelly comes to her in a vision. She is gone now and wants Tabitha to know that she can stop looking for her. She didn't die in pain, but she did break all of the rules that her big sister had taught her when she opened the locked car door for the nice lady with the doll. Before she leaves Shelly tells Tabitha where she can find her body and how she died. The sisters have a connection throughout with Shelly's favorite thing, snow globes. Her favorite one is a ballerina dancing in the snow, a dream that finally comes true.

39. Living Past Color Lines

Elizabeth and Margaret have been friends for a lifetime. Now as elderly roommates and best friends these women live a simple life. When they start to reminisce about the days when they met each other and how their friendship came to be we see a totally different side of both. Elizabeth was responsible for escorting Margaret, an African American student around her high school in its attempt to integrate. They were not friends, and they did not like each other but on the morning of Margaret's first day of school when Elizabeth arrives late Margaret is met by a group of people who do not want to see her walk into the high school. She is beaten and set on fire before Elizabeth arrives to save her. From that moment on Elizabeth never left her side again. So much so that the women were able to become friends and move past the color lines.

40. A Walk in The Park

On April 19, 1989, four African American teens and one Hispanic teen are simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when they are arrested and questioned about the brutal rape and beating of a white woman in Central Park in New York City. All of the boys were under the age of eighteen and they all, after hours of interrogation, admitted their guilt in the crime. Within a few days the boys recanted their stories, but the ball of justice was already rolling. All of the boys were found guilty and served their full sentences. Finally, in 2002 after all of the boys had served their time a man in prison admitted that he was the sole assailant for the crime that these boys had done time for. In "*A Walk in The Park*" we get a glimpse inside of the boys' experience as innocent children being accused, prosecuted, found guilty and imprisoned for a crime they did not commit. Can they ever trust the justice system ever again? How easy will it be for them to move past the lives that were forced on them by a system that let them down? The Central Park Five shows us that the innocent can still be found guilty. (Fiction Fan Fair)

41. Normal

The only thing Zach wants is to be "Normal" like his big brother Chad. Unfortunately, Zach has been diagnosed with a mixture of ADD and Autism. He may not be able to communicate well but he can do mathematical problem in his head in a matter of seconds. When Zach is bullied at school big brother Chad comes to his aid. Chad loves his brother while being overwhelmed with his own life he tries to make sure Zach always feels like the things that make him different are the things that make him special. When Zach wants to talk to girls, like he has seen Chad do, he leaves the house unsupervised and is hit by a car. Chad comes to his side and holds him as Zach tries to explain that he just wanted to talk to the pretty girls. It was the simplest request that he had in the world, and it cost him his life, just trying to be normal.

42. Our Day of Silence

In recent years the world has watched as America fights against itself for justice and a level of equalization. With the death of Trayvon Martin and more recently Michael Brown racism has been pulled into the courtroom and the homes of Americans. Possibly the person that grieves the loss of a child the most are the mothers. In this story we see Lesley, Michael Brown's mother and Sabrina, Trayvon Martin's mother come together and tell their stories. From the day they found out their sons had been murdered to their memories of the boys when they were too young to be guilty of anything. The bond that these women share is a simple one, yet it is one of the strongest in human existence, motherhood. As both women tell their story they realize that the best thing that they have is the support of the other. A lovely story that shows us that even through tragedy smiling is still possible, laughing is ever-present and in time they both find a way to breathe again. *This is fan fair and does not depict true events.

43. Hands Up

On the day of the Michael Brown shooting Mason, an African American man, arrives home to see his white wife MaryAnn watching the news as it unfolds. Mason wants to take action and stand with people protesting. He sees this as his time to stand for what he believes is an injustice. MaryAnn doesn't understand why this is so important. Through the scene we get to see how Mason feels about this shooting as it relates to his life as a black man and how MaryAnn works to understand this life through his eyes. She is opinionated and supports him but is nervous about what the cause is exactly. Their relationship is based on love, but it is situations like the one at hand that makes both of them look at their lives and accept that love may be blind but in life they are black and white. Mason desperately wants MaryAnn to support his decision and MaryAnn wants Mason to follow what he believes is right while seeing the dangers of his decision.

44. Like Magic

In this magical performance, we fall in love with Stanley and Vanessa. Vanessa is Stanley's assistant in their magic act. The scene opens with Stanley coming into a room and opening a large chest that Vanessa climbs out of. Stanley is a wonderful magician, and he often remembers back to the best time of his life, the moments that he spent with Vanessa. Through a series of scenes in present and past time we see how the two of them began their act together and how they became lifelong friends. Things begin to shift with Vanessa's husband starts to abuse her. She decides that the best thing for her is to leave, this is the beginning of Stanley and Vanessa's magic act. Through the years that they work together they always stayed professional until the day that Vanessa died. Now she is an active part of Stanley's memory. On this day Stanley decides that he must tell Vanessa the magic that she brought to his life. Before she leaves him again, he tells her how much he loves her and that she created every magical moment in his life. Unfortunately, they only share one dance and one

kiss before Vanessa must leave. But before she climbs back into the chess they do the finale of their show, take one last bow, and say goodbye. He closes the chess, removes his magic hat and wand, and walks away from the love of his life. Again. **(Written for African American couple, but can be edited for any race)**

45. **Chained**

Sylvia is a simple white girl living on her father's plantation in the south during slavery. She decides that she wants a something to play with, instead of a doll she picks out David, a slave also living on the plantation. Over the years of their friendship, they create a strong bond that eventually turns into love. Sylvia teaches David how to read and then tells him she loves him. He tries to explain to Sylvia that he is her property and that they cannot love each other. Sylvia will not accept this. Their lives change the way she shares with her father that she is pregnant, and David is the father and that she loves him. Her father is ashamed of the situation. He beats David and forces Sylvia to kill him. She does and is then banished from the plantation. Throughout the performance we see Sylvia at different stages of her life with and without David. He comes in and out of her memories, as does the child that she never had. It is a difficult timeless story of love and race, but these two people show us that love is always possible.

46. **Wolf**

Wolf is the story of Jacob and Stacy. A couple that has been together since childhood. However, sometimes even with the greatest intentions we may fall short of our goals. Jacob grew up poor and wanted to make sure that his wife Stacy would never experience this. He works endless hours to provide for her and ends up going down a very dark path of drugs, alcohol, and endless cheating all for the evil love of money. While Stacy longs for the attention of her husband she must accept that she is not a priority for him, but the challenge is getting him to understand it too. Her fear is that she will not be able to get him to understand that she doesn't love him because of what he provides for her, she loves him because of the memory of the man he was before everything else invaded his life. As Stacy packs her bags she must tell him why she is leaving in hopes that he will help himself to again choose to live. In an emotional scene where two people find out that being in love may not be enough.

47. **Gone**

Rachel is a young girl starting to pack for college with her best friend Jack. As she packs her boxes Jack unpacks them, rips off labels and makes fun of her just like old times. But Jack wants one thing to happen before he lets Rachel leave, he wants her to accept her past and let him go. Throughout their conversation we realize that Jack is much more to her than just a friend. Rachel must free her mind from the voices that cloud her judgment to be able to see Jack for who he is and what their relationship really was. Growing up in an abusive home with only her father Rachel

finally remembers the violent death of her brother Billy. As the shadows of her memories become clearer, she relives the day she said goodbye to her brother and hello to her imaginary friend Jack. The story deals with the struggle a child has with abuse as well as the reality of creating different personalities to assist in dealing with it. But in this coming-of-age story before Rachel can start the next chapter of her life she must let go and recover from the horrors of her childhood that have for so long shaped her as a person.

48. Sing, Dance, Silence

Laura is a nurse that loves her job. On a daily basis she sings to her favorite guest named Jackson or “Mr. Broadway” as he used to be a Broadway star before his accident left him in a coma. Laura believes that he is still in there listening to her, so she asks him if he can hear her on a daily basis and on this day, he blinks at her. This moment transfers both of them into a life where both of them can talk to each other about life. We see Jackson as an actor auditioning and falling in love with Lisa another actress but in a strange turn of events their relationship ends, and they never see each other again. Laura soon realizes that the man lying in a coma is her father that her mother spoke of all her life but never gave him a name. As Jackson and the love of his life sing and dance with each other Laura is able to live in a dream watching from a distance the joy of her mother and her love. As the scene comes to an end Laura gets closure for some of her questions but of course it all ends too soon as Jackson slips back into his coma never to sing, or dance again. Now living in his everlasting silence.

49. Story of Home

Asha and Omair are a married couple from India. They have been in the United States for a long time, but they will never forget or completely disconnect from their homeland as their families are still there. Asha is a journalist and is always looking for her next story hoping that this one will be the big one. But when she reads a story of the brutal rape and eventual death of a young college student in India, she decides that the best story to tell is the one that is the closest to her. She travels with her husband, after some serious discussion, to India to participate in the Nationwide protest. A monumental experience for women to come together and stand up for their right to say, “No.” This is an epidemic in India and at present it is still being fought for. When Asha and Omair get separated in the protest she leaves the country and returns home a different woman. Sometimes we have to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes to truly be able to tell the story. The hope is that Asha will find herself again, before she loses Omair, their love and all the things she loves.

50. The Shot That Killed Innocence

On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza made the decision to come to the Sandy Hook Elementary School and take the lives of 26 children and staff members in one of the deadliest school shootings in American history. As the sound of the first shot hits the

halls of the school children begin to panic and teachers begin to do what they do best, put themselves in harm's way to save the lives of their students. One by one bullets are flying through the air as the lives of hundreds within the school and millions around the world watch and pray. This fictional story depicts the emotion of what the teachers, principals, students and even the shooter experienced on that day. For every student and faculty member that lost their life and every family that will forever miss them, this story touches us all. ***Fictional fan fair

51. From Friendship to Brotherhood

In the midst of the early 1960's Vernon is an African American boy, and his best friend Peter is a Caucasian boy that meet each other at the age of seven in the woods that connect their houses that are miles apart from each other. The boys become fast friends with them teaching each other things about their lives that the other would never know. Unfortunately, Peter was born with kidneys that were never fully functioning and as he gets older his kidneys get weaker. Vernon wants nothing more than to save the life of his friend by giving him a kidney and this is when Peter has to tell him that they are too different and that his father would never allow Vernon to give him his kidney even if it were possible. Eventually as teenagers Peter is close to death and Vernon arrives at his house to tell his father what a great son he has. It is in this moment that every fear the boys had had all of their friendship comes true. The moment that Vernon stands up for what is and will always be right, the right to love your best friend and be by his side as he dies. This right is taken away from him, but when both boys finally meet up again, they are just as they had always been, friends for life.

52. The Silence of Sisters

When sisters to Tameka and Tessa are born the world did not stand on its feet and applaud them. For these girls who were from the moment of conception unwanted their lives became out sticking together and figuring out how to stay alive at the abusive hands of their mother and father. The two decide that, as twins they should have their own language, something that made them different but also a way for them to escape into a world where only the two of them existed and everything was okay. After suffering years of abuse the girls find themselves out on the streets and desperate. The decide that robbing and hustling like their parents did would be the only way but when petty crimes turn into bank heists the girls make the ultimate sacrifice promising that if they get caught, they would both stay silent until one of them dies. On this day we watch the reflection as Tameka speaks for the first time after years of incarceration because on this day, she finds out that her sister has died in prison. To hear the woman, give the accounts of their childhood while loving and supporting her sister every step of the way it shines a light on the human ability to endure pain while also capturing the humanity of our most simplistic emotion, love. The sisters held up their promise to each other and when Tameka finally does speak, everyone will listen.

53. The Moment Before Goodbye

Savannah and Jacob have been best friends since fifth grade. The joy that they have for each other is true and shines through every conversation that they share. But when high school graduation comes and goes, and they part ways they find themselves for the first time living two different lives that don't mix with each other. Savannah has gone away to college but realizes the hole that Jacob has fallen into with alcohol and drugs, but she doesn't know why. The scene starts with Savannah speaking at what seems to be Jacob's funeral. Speaking about their childhood together and the efforts she made to help him get clean we are taken into their past to get to the present. It is revealed that Jacob's substance abuse started when Savannah was attacked one night, and he blames himself for it. When all of the skeletons are revealed, we find out that sometimes things are not always as they seem, and it is in those times that we need our best friends the most. Clean and sober or drunk and speeding down the highway Jacob and Savannah will have their moment before they say goodbye.

54. The Best Book I Ever Read

Terry is a young man with autism. He has found a new home at the local library with his new friend Victoria, the best librarian in the world. Their relationship blossoms like that of big sister and little brother. But when Victoria is assaulted after work one night Terry finds himself being big brother to her hoping that he will be able to make her happy again. He doesn't know what happened, but he picks up on the fact that his friend is sad. The man that assaulted Victoria continues to stalk her at her job to insure she does not go to the police until Victoria decides that she will not live her life like this. When he confronts her as she walks to her car, she tells Terry to go ahead of him. The man tells her this is a game that he is playing, and Victoria decides she is not playing this game anymore. He pulls a knife, and they fight when Victoria is stabbed. Terry didn't leave that night, he hid and waited for his friend. He holds her until she dies because that's what a good friend does. At her funeral he reflects on what a great friend he was and how just like his favorite superhero Captain Supertron he was her hero by helping her that night.

55. True Love Story

Hank and Stella have the most amazing love that has lasted sixty- five years. Hank opens the scene remembering all of the things that made him fall in love with Stella: her laugh, smile, dance moves but a big part of it is her singing. Hank feels as if he knows her like he knows himself, so when Hank sees Stella acting differently, he knows that something is wrong. And soon after she is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. While he struggles with her imminent death, he searches his memories for all of the great times that made their love so unbelievably special, from meeting in math class at the age of fifteen to their first dance on their wedding day, everything a celebration in memories. All of these things leading up to the climax when Stella attacks the stranger in her house as she desperately searches for her parents. Hank

talks her down, sings to her, helps her remember who he is, what they had and let her know that she will never be forgotten. It is the kind of love story that everyone hopes to have.

56. Beholden

The time is 1854 and the place is a cotton plantation in Mississippi. Henry and Jessie Mae are a married couple that are truly in love. In their twenties the two support each other in the midst of being slaves on a plantation. Jessie Mae's job on the plantation is at the core of their marriage struggles. She is responsible for taking care of the Master in the most private of ways whenever he sends for her. Henry doesn't like that he has to share his wife with any man let alone the Master who is physically abusive to her. Finally, he has had enough, and he tells her that he will not allow her to go. She begs and pleads with him to allow her to go, or they will both be killed. She breaks down and tells him of a deal that she made with the master that she will willingly do all the things he wants her to do if she secures her husband's safety. When she reveals that she is pregnant and is unsure which of the two men are the father Henry decides to wait until the baby is born to make his decision. After the birth Henry knows the baby is not his, he leaves and Jessie Mae does the only thing she knows to do, live.

57. Praise & Worship

Jason and Jaron are two typical brothers. They have a very special relationship with their father who is also the pastor at Jamison Southern Baptist Church. A church that is filled with life, and a comical portrayal of the life that exists within this place. A lively church where the boys reflect on the characters that they have grown to call family: the elderly women on the first row, the animated choir director, the soulful choir, the gossipers, the Sunday school children, and their father at the head. The boys wonder just what their place is in this church. Their father wants one of them to follow in his footsteps but neither believe that they will ever get "the call" to serve as pastor. This is the story of two brothers and the wonderful people that make up the place that they know as home, and they soon realize that they are already in their place and that call might just be on the horizon.

58. Hand in Hand

Robert and Shelia are an older African American couple sitting in their living room enjoying their day until a news report comes on and covers yet another shooting of another African American male. This sparks conversation between the two of them about how it is that we have come so far and are yet still where we were when they were teenagers going through the Civil Rights Movement. They reflect on their history, how they fought for their rights back then and understand the fight that is happening right now. We see them revisit the first march they ever attended hand in hand supporting each other and we see the march through their eyes. It mirrors the thing that they are seeing on the news in the present day. They decide that much

like back then they cannot sit and do nothing. They get ready and hand in hand they go out to march with the African American community of the present feeling that maybe they can support and teach them how they overcame their obstacles.

59. The Cure

The time is 2186 more than two hundred years into the future and racism has overtaken the world. The two characters: Doctor and Robot have a relationship that is much like a parent with a child. Doctor is a scientist that has been charged with the assignment of curing racism. Robot is the first step in that cure. Robot has been built and filled with all of the knowledge that is available in the universe and Doctor believes that Robot is the key to finding the cure. Doctor begins to input all things throughout history that have attributed to the fear that has created and fueled racism into Robot: slavery, Underground Railroad, Willie Lynch, Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter. As these things are put into Robot something starts to happen to Robot that changes it. It begins to break down, the hate is too overwhelming even for a computer to handle. Doctor removes the files and Robot asks for those things to not be put back inside of it. Hate is a powerful thing. It creates fear. When people live in fear they act according to their fear and hate is born and taught continuing the cycle. When all things settle Robot is the one who reminds Doctor that love has always been present and love is the answer.

(***This piece can be performed by two males, two females, or one of each. This piece requires that one of the performers be African American.)

60. The Darkness of War

Joey, a man in his mid-twenties holds a perfectly folded American flag as he begins to share with the audience information about his best friend Seth. They grew up together and have known each other all their lives. Joey was with Seth through prom, wedding as a teenager and the birth of his son, but Seth wasn't there. Right after high school graduation Seth lives out his dream of joining the Army and leaves for training following three tours of duty. Joey is left to look after Seth's wife and son. Unfortunately, Seth is hit with a bomb in Afghanistan and returns home forever wounded in a way he never thought possible. Blinded by the bomb Seth slips into a depression but before he loses his wife and his son, he reaches out to his best friend Joey to help him. Teach him how he can be a father and a husband without his site. Through the performance we see the men as children playing dodgeball, getting ready for prom, and through a war, their love and friendship is clear. Seth will finally get what it is that all Vets deserve, support, love, and a chance to move past the darkness of war.

61. The Memory of Time

Chase and Nina have been friends since they were three years old and Chase stole Nina's bike. They are now adults and living in New York City. On this day Chase is preparing for the biggest interview of his career and like always Nina is patiently

waiting for him. She addresses the audience about her life with Chase and their love for each other is clear. It isn't until they arrive at work at 7 World Trade Center. Chase has his interview and gets the job. As he heads to the donut shop where he is to meet Nina to celebrate as the first plane hits. He frantically calls his best friend who is in the other tower and the clock begins. The clock is counting up as the chances of survival are counting down. Chase watches as the towers fall and Nina is nowhere to be found. At the 9/11 Memorial he gets to see Nina again. She tells him that she is always with him, they laugh, they cry and as Chase makes his way into the Memorial Nina watches him knowing that he will continue to live past losing her.

62. Silent Story

In the midst of an America that is changing two seemingly simple Hispanic girls work hard at their job at the movie theatre. They share laughs with each other, as they clean and talk about the silent movie that has just gone off. Discussion how on one side words are not needed to properly understand a story and in the beginning of film making there were no words. While they speak, they realize there is a theatre patron that has not left the theatre. The older Hispanic woman just sits there silently as the girls work, so they continue on. They begin to talk about a murder that happened at the theatre the week before, a Hispanic woman is beaten to death. Why can't we accept people for who they are and not where they come from? What is America saying about those of us who are of color? The women discuss the circumstances of the murder when finally, the woman in the theatre breaks her silence. She begins to talk to them about her sister, the woman who died the week before, who just wanted to sit in the theatre and watch a movie but that was taken from her because a racist woman questioned her presence in this country. This piece speaks to the present state of immigrants in this country right now, how tolerance has given way to the powerful hand of ignorance. In the end the three women sit and watch the movie that the older woman's sister wanted to see understanding that sometimes just being present is enough and that silence while being a great teacher can also be a learning experience as well. **(This piece could be done with different minority women but is written for two Hispanic women but could be cut to any two women of color.)**

63. Justice

Jay and Nathan are two African American brothers in the fight of their lives. In the midst of a 2017 America where the life of a black man is often a topic of conversation, they find themselves left with a choice. On the wake of the morning after a friend has been killed by a police officer as the protestors gather in preparation for a march the two brothers try to communicate with each other as to exactly what the issue is. For Jay, the older brother who has had his share of run ins with the police, did some jail time but got out and after the death of his mother found himself the caregiver of his little brother Nathan who is now in college. Jay tries to make Nathan see that his books are an escape from the world around him, as Nathan pleads with Jay to see that though his presence isn't active now, he will be a

great help to the community after school. As the conversation intensifies, we see both brothers go on a journey of change and understanding of the other's position. It makes us realize that sometimes in the midst of a battle for our lives the allies change, alliances shift and the beliefs of the men on the battlefield change as well. As both brothers change, switching places, emotions, and their stance on the situation they must fight each other to make a difference. Ending in the all familiar- hands in the air- do they live or die? Run away or stay and march? It is in the split second of life's most difficult decisions that their lives change, forever.

64. Light of The World

Miss Raina is an American English teacher working in Swaziland, Africa. She first meets Femi on the first day of school, the first girl to arrive early. Femi is not a supporter of the American teachers that come there to "save the poor African children." She expresses this feeling through raps. She is quite brilliant when she raps her feelings and assignments. Eventually through a series of interactions Femi is finally on Miss Raina's side. She finally believes that this American woman is really there for them, and they create a lasting bond. Unfortunately, in the midst of a revolt all teachers must leave and return to their home country. As Miss Raina packs furiously, Femi enters and confronts her for leaving them. Miss Raina tries to make her understand she doesn't have a choice, but Femi reminds her of all the things that she had taught them in class about choices and using their voices, owning their future. But in an instant Miss Raina is gone. When she returns some months later many people including some of the girls have been killed, Femi is gone as well. Unlike the people in the village Femi has passed away because of AIDS. In a beautiful, spirited moment Miss Raina stands in front of the girls, with Femi majestically by her side and encourages them to stand together and move forward teaching us that we all sacrifice some will never know the sacrifices of others but together we can choose to move forward stronger despite our own realities. This is a story about relationships and helping others even when you don't realize you are doing it. These two women fight to keep each other's spirits up during a very difficult reality that is very present in this country today. ***Femi needs to be an African girl, but Miss Raina's race is not specified within the text.**

65. Deal of Friendship

Sometimes in life we find friendships in the strangest of places and people. Jeremiah a teenage boy with cerebral palsy has never had a friend and believes that he never will. When Lily, a transfer student walks into his biology class his world changes in a way he never thought possible. She sits next to him and comes up with a deal, he teaches her the ropes and she will sit next to him every day and talk to him, as he's pointed out no one ever has. Jeremiah reluctantly agrees and a friendship is born. Lily falls into his life like the angel that he needed. She makes him realize that he is not his illness, he is who he sees himself as. Jeremiah for most of his life has believed that he is different; people will always see him for the things that make him stand out and not for who he is. Eventually just when Lily thinks she has gotten him to

open his eyes he reverts to how he felt before. In the climax she forces him to come out of his shell and show the school who he is, who he wants them to see him as. He dances, he sings, and he brings the house down with a confidence he didn't know was possible. He owns who he is and owes it all to Lily. In the end Jeremiah becomes a new person because of his friend Lily and realizes that our greatest gifts can be those that are only in our lives for a moment, but their impact lasts a lifetime.

66. Darkness Under the Dome

In the moments before Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans the scene opens with sisters Adalina and Sofia packing to get to the Dome. As they arrive to see the thousands of people that are there with them, they begin to worry that this place isn't the haven they were told it would be. But as younger sister Sofia finds her place as a teacher to the younger kids and starts to get comfortable Adalina's fear of what the Dome is becoming overcomes her. Adalina wants to keep Sofia safe, and Sofia wants to try to keep her mind off of their present reality, which is getting worse by the day. As the hours and days loom on the Dome begins to be overrun by the things that happen in any enclosed city: crime, rape, assault, things breaking, no water and running out of food. When the survival side of people comes out so does the devil. After Sofia is attacked Adalina must do everything in her power to save her sister not realizing that their definition of "save" is quite different. As the story ends the person that Sofia has been forced to become is not the person she wants to be. In a desperate moment she asks Adalina to assist her in taking her own life. Adalina battles losing her sister again and letting her go so that she can be free again, free in the way she sees fit.

67. Patience

Wesley and his son Jason have a wonderful bond. As they work to move forward after the tragic loss of their mother and wife Lisa the two create a relationship that helps both of them to figure out a way to keep going. As Wesley drops twelve-year-old Jason off at his bus stop he tells his son that he loves him, but unfortunately, when he returns to pick him up Jason is nowhere to be found. After a quick search Wesley locates Jason at the bottom of a ravine after being hit by a car. He rushes his son to the hospital where he becomes brain dead, but the doctor asks him if he wants to donate Jason's remaining organs. Wesley doesn't hesitate. A few years later as Wesley sits in the house still in mourning of the loss of his family his son comes to visit him. Jason tells him that he and Lisa are fine and that he has to figure out a way to move forward. A knock at door forces Wesley to open it and stands a young man Max. Wesley finds out that he was the recipient of his son Jason's heart. Max offers Wesley a chance to hear his son's heartbeat again and in an instant Wesley is transformed. As the scene ends Wesley begins to pack up all of the things that he needs to move forward from, leaving hope that this father who has been standing in the same place since the death of his son can finally move forward.

68. In A Haze

Joining a fraternity seems to be a rite of passage for many young men and women entering college. But in recent years the act of hazing has cost many young people their lives. Matt and Zach two best friends and roommates decide that they are going to pledge a fraternity. They already considered themselves brothers so to walk through this experience together they thought would be fun. It is not long into the process that these two young men realize that there is no price on brotherhood and that sometimes the best way to build a bond is to hold on tight to the people you already trust and consider to be family. In a performance that plays out like an episode a great courtroom drama we see the experience through the eyes of the boys that lived it. As one testifies the other watches as his friend, his brother, tells the world of the day that he took a stand against a room full of bullies and risked his life to save the one person who always had his back, always made him laugh and never left him alone to fail. That is the true definition of friendship and family. *In A Haze* presents the challenges of college life and the dangers of hazing while addressing the very real determination that young people have to belong, be accepted and participate in something that makes them relevant and important. By the time Zach leaves the witness stand he can hold his head high, he told the truth and his best friend Matt, though only there in spirit would be very proud of him.

69. The Switch

Bella is a white transgender woman who loves the skin she is in but wants to make a full transition into being a woman. Her best friend Steph is an African American woman who is working hard to make her voice heard in the #BlackLivesMatter movement. It is this that brings these two women together for a protest that turns literally topsy turvy and inside out. In the midst of a gas bomb being thrown the two women find that when the gas clears, they have switched bodies. They engage in conversations about the struggle that both women are living in hoping to gain insight and understanding, true understanding for "wearing the other's shoes." In the climax both women find themselves running for their lives from a group of racists and a group of people who don't like nor understand transgender people. The women realize that both lives they are living are difficult ones but with understanding and an open heart it is possible to support someone who is not like you but is going through life challenges that are difficult and life alternating. This story challenges the audience to realize that all lives matter, all lives have a purpose and as long as we the people understand that all of our opinions matter, it is just a matter of being able to have respect when the opinions of others are not our own. In the end they find themselves again, they love one another again and they become more tolerance of the other because of *The Switch*. A story of societal norms and acceptance.

70. Finding Home

Ethan is a high-spirited teenage boy who is painting in a room when Riley, an angry teenage girl enters and watches him work. She talks to him about what he's doing, and he tells her it is a painting of home. She tells him she doesn't have a home and it is revealed that they are both foster children in a foster home. The scene progresses and Ethan gives her the chance to paint her "home" on his painting, but she refuses. So, with a swirl of his paintbrush, they are whisked away into the "jungle" where they meet a family of monkeys, and we get to see these two teenagers be kids again. Eventually they find themselves in front of a door. It is the front door of Ethan's childhood home. He enters and we see his mother who is smoking a cigarette and taking pills. This is a moment in time that shows the kind of life he had before he made his way to the foster care system. Riley tries to comfort him but before they find their way home, they transition onto a stage that both of them decide would be a great place to sing and dance right into the next door, Riley's childhood home. They enter and we see her as a child playing with her dolls until her father enters and takes her hand leading her into another room for their time. They both transition back to the home and Riley is angry that he took them there. She doesn't understand what he's doing. He explains to her that she has to get past what brought her into the foster care system in order to ever find a home again. Eventually Riley crushes his painting out of anger. Finally, they go back to their childhood homes again, so we see how those moments in their lives ended, then back to the foster home. A new canvas is presented, and Riley begins to paint her home.

71. Color of Comedy

The scene opens with two comedians: Zach a white guy and Rohan a Bengali. This is their first meeting as they both prepare for their stand-up comedy set. The men share a moment and we then fast forward to a few years later where Zach feels it is more appropriate to talk to Rohan about what it means to be a man of his color and religion in the present America. It is a very educational and emotional conversation. Rohan appreciates that Zach asked instead of assumed and that his questions were genuine. However, Zach was not ready for the realness of what Rohan and his family has endured since 9-11-01 in America. It is a sad story of the lack of humanity but addresses that so much of our ignorance is rooted in depending on what they see on television to be our educator. The conversation is deep in its essence but never gets away from the fact that these two men are friends. In the end the men find themselves back at the comedy club getting ready for the next night of comedy when a news report breaks news of a terror attack that has killed American troupes as Rohan is performing. A heckler goes in on the situation resulting in the men fighting. Zach misses the fight but, in the aftermath, Rohan is upset that his friend wasn't there to defend him. For the first time Rohan expresses wanting to kill someone not as a man of color but as a human being constantly being pushed. After the night Rohan goes outside to see the man, he had a fight with beating his car with a bat. He tries to be the bigger man making jokes, but the man wants another fight. Rohan is beaten badly as Zach emerges from the building; he holds his friend as he takes his

last breath. In the end Zach takes the stage again and dedicates his performance to his fallen friend Rohan. ***One performer needs to be of Bengali or similar descent.**

72. What Gods May Say

A look into the endless life of two Goddesses. These two women are Gbadu the Goddess of Fate and Inkosazana the Goddess of Architecture. We watch them as the scene opens working together to create a new world. The concept behind this story is that we see these two powerful women creating worlds and putting life into motion until they notice that one of the worlds that they created has been contaminated with an insect, a parasite that is negatively affecting the world and killing it in many ways. They mention all of the things that are killing this world: homelessness, pollution, weapons of mass destruction, chemical warfare, the misuse of water and other resources, etc. The women get into a heated disagreement as to what to do with this world, do they allow things to play out or do they kill the world and begin again from scratch? The scene plays to the present state of the world that we live in where we are not taking care of the resources that we have and, in many ways, abusing them. In the climax we see the downfall of the world that the parasite has taken over and all the things that are happening to it. As the scene ends the women turn their focus to another creation, another chance to make a place where people can live forever safe and hopefully appreciate what was given to them.

73. A Moment to Relive

Shay is a young woman who, in presentation is living her life as it should be. But there is another person there with a remote that has the power to pause, rewind and intervene in her life's decisions. As we see Shay's life unfold, we also see the mistakes that she made play out. The things she wishes that she could change with the relationship with her sister. The child that she thinks in the present that she kept but in real it she never had the baby. Eventually, she finds herself waking up in a haze trying to figure out what has happened. She soon realizes that she is in a center that allows you to go back and for a given amount of time relive specific moments in your life, changing them, fixing them but it is only for that span of time. She must wake up, return back to reality, but she can now take with her seeing what would have happened had she made a different choice in that moment. For Shay this isn't the outcome that she expected. She wanted to relive it and change history; in essence she wanted to leave the memories in the dream and wake up with her past changed permanently. It is a difficult and disappointing reality she must accept; the bad decisions, the people she disappointed and a lasting theme that we cannot change what has already come and gone. We must accept the past and build ourselves up to handle the present and move into the future.

74. Full Life Cycle

The joy of a lifelong friendship is the ability to look back over the years and see all of the ups and downs that came with being friends for so long. When an elderly Rose must say goodbye to her best friend Joyce, she finds herself going back to the beginning of their friendship. A couple of young girls that had the dream of being a dynamic duo as performers. The only promise that they made to each other was that through all of the success that they may or may not have they would never lose sight of their friendship. But as the tales go they find themselves very successful and being pulled in different directions which also pulled them apart. Finally, Joyce decides that she needs to move on to the next step in her life, a husband, and kids and as she leaves to pursue her new dream Rose continues to shine. The two drift apart for many years until Joyce works to find Rose in a nursing home, still a star, still her "Rosie." The two women are reunited, perform one last time, and spend their last days together as they had spent so many years before. An emotional friendship piece that makes us realize how friends turn into family and no amount of time apart can kill such a bond. **(*These two performers will sing within the piece.)**

75. Story of Hip Hop

The power of hip hop is something that has spanned over many decades and is not narrowed down to one race, sex, geographical location, or social class. In this story Marcus, a college student is deep in the middle of creating his final for his History of Hip Hop class but the harder he works the more frustrated he gets because he knows that this era of music is so big, and he wants to do it justice. Enters his friend Drake that sees his frustration and begins to take him on a rollercoaster of hip hop highlights in dance that he could possibly use within his piece, or he's just having fun. But together the two young men realize that hip hop is more than just dancing, more than just making words rhyme and creating a beat. It is an experience that everyone should be able to respect and connect to because at its essence it is music that tells a story that every man and woman should be able to listen to and understand. As the scene progresses Marcus realizes he is enough and has always been enough to tell this story. As he creates his final for this class, he cuts out all of the lies that weren't his story to tell and gives us who he is, what he has experienced and what he knows. He tells his hip hop story. **(*With the authors permission this piece may be performed by any performer: male/ male, male/ female, or female/ female it is a piece about the music and is not gender or race specific.)**

76. We're All in Here

When Detective Jessy Lucas begins her interview of Scarlett, she has no idea what she is going to unveil by the end of their conversation. The police are looking for Scarlett's brother who has gone missing. In the interview as Scarlett gets more and more emotional, buttons begin to get pushed and something switches on in her mind that brings out other people to assist her in the telling of her story. Her

personalities consist of Madge- the mouth, Cindy- the sweetheart and, Cliff- the scary dark presence that everyone is afraid of. When Detective Lucas realizes what she is dealing with she keeps trying to find out information from the different personalities trying to find Scarlett within all of them. Slowly the story begins to unfold as the personalities share their part, their presence, what they saw, what they did, what happened or didn't happen to Scarlett's brother. Finally, the history between Scarlett and her brother comes out and, in an attempt, to help her save her own life Detective Lucas brings in Scarlett's sister to help balance her mind and calm all of the people that are in there. A scary yet heartbreaking story of how much the human mind can handle before it decides it needs others to help balance the pain it is enduring.

77. Black & White

One of the strongest relationships is that between a mother and daughter. When Linda stands with her daughter Robbie a week before her wedding day looking at her in her wedding dress, she can barely hold back her emotions. But when the two women begin to talk about Robbie's father Steven who is in prison for life for murdering a black man, his ties with the Klan, his racist family and all of the things that come with are brought to the forefront. As much as Robbie wants to move past who her family is the fact that she is marrying a black man is a difficult pill for her mother to swallow. Through a series of memories of her childhood, the trial, visiting her father in prison and a breakdown from Linda we find out the deepest and darkest family secret. Steven killed the black man Lawrence because he found out he was Robbie's biological father. This is not information that Robbie ever knew, and she isn't sure why now is the time her mother decides to share it with her. As they address many demons in their family closet Robbie must decide if her mother's secrets are things that she can accept and move past or if the truth is so overwhelming that the best thing for her to do as she begins this new chapter in her life is to cut ties with all of the negativity and hate that comes with her family and start new. This is a highly emotional and deeply rooted story that addresses how hate can consume one's life but the reality that it is possible to move past adversity and grow as an individual.

78. Final Bow

Violet is a seemingly normal beautiful and talented teenage girl. She is a dancer and has a focus and determination that could rarely be matched. But as we see her interact with the people who Influence her most, she begins to exhibit signs of a different kind of focus. One that turns her talent of dancing into a crippling addiction that she believes is her sole purpose for living. We see her dance teacher who is more along the lines of a tyrant but to work with this teacher is to guarantee a dance career. Add into that dynamic Caroline the girl that Violet so desperately wants to be she is the perfect size, shape, and doesn't work half as hard as Violet does to be the talent she is and Caroline knows it. Then there is Violet's mother who doesn't believe in her daughter and voices that reality often. Violet finds herself starving

herself physically and emotionally for attention so much that she creates an alter ego of herself to help her cope with life. Through dance Violet can express her love and hate for herself while reaching for stars that she believes are attainable. It is within a story like this that we see how easily hard work and determination can cross over into an unhealthy addiction that, by the end of this scene, could cost Violet her life. She wants to be the most perfect and beautiful dancer in the eyes of her teacher and her competition, but from her mother all she wants is to be supported and loved. This is a beautiful story that allows dance to speak volumes to the heart and soul. ***Violet needs to be able to dance as if she has been trained.**

79. Without Words

Emma stands at a podium talking to the crowd that has assembled for the funeral of her best friend Tess. She recalls the first time that she met her on the playground paying hopscotch like two little girls should and it is in that moment that she learns that her soon to be best friend is hearing impaired. As they grow up together Tess teaches Emma sign language because she is the first person to want to communicate with her in her way. In a performance that spans from elementary school through high school we watch these two young ladies grow in their friendship. When Emma finds out how Tess lost her hearing their friendship is challenged in a way, they never thought possible. How do you support someone whose life has been tragically changed forever at the hands of the people we are taught to trust the most? The silence that Tess had kept for so long is now forced to scream as the day nears that she must confront her abusers. Tess makes a final decision that will end all her pain, suffering and fear but will also end her life. In the end Emma pulls herself together to memorialize her best friend who fought as long and hard as she could be signing her way through all her life's pain, until she can no longer handle the hand she was dealt. *****Both actresses will use sign language throughout the entire performance.**

80. Playing the Game, Fighting for Home

When sisters Sasha and Heather were growing up all they knew was the game of tennis. From the moment they were able to walk they were on the court playing the game. For them it was more than a game it was their way of communicating with each other, their love without it being forced on them. As they got older, they became a force in the professional tennis world but when Sasha begins to lose her site, she begins to feel like she is losing the very air that she breathes. But it is through the game that Heather can get her to understand that tennis was an instrumental part of their lives, but it isn't their air, because she can in fact not play tennis and still live. It takes the love and support of a sister to get the other to see, see, that sometimes we have a purpose in life and sometimes that purpose changes or shifts and we have to adjust with it, because it's life. As the sister's story plays out on the tennis court Sasha is finally able to look at the court and into the stands that she often describes as "home" and realize that the time always comes that we have

to leave home for other things. In this high energy, tennis game of love the sisters play their best game of life through the strokes of their rackets.

81. A Survivor's Choice

Cece, a college professor sets up her for her classes lecture, she begins to watch pictures on a projector scene of her as a child. Enter Amber her longtime friend that she has invited to speak to her Life Skills 101 class. The women have been friends since middle school when Cece helped Amber not get caught for stealing at the local convenience store. Cece was the "good girl" in the friendship and Amber was the girl from the broken home. These two women were not supposed to be friends, but the longevity of their friendship defied all expectations. It is in a hotel room when the women reconnect after a few years of not communicating that Cece reveals that her life has not been the perfect fairytale that she presented it to be. Through a scene that deals with the affects that family can have on one's ability to function and a suicide attempt we see these two friends have each other's backs in the most difficult of times. As the class files into the auditorium and Amber speaks we hear her testimony about being able to face all of the hardships of life and survive them, while Cece stands next to her and shares her stories as well we see these women assist the classroom of college students who have not yet begun this next chapter of their lives see that right now is the time to decided what your future will look like. Sometimes the best life lessons are taught by people who have drowned in the deep end and were able to survive.

82. Mercy

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina an investigation was opened into "Mercy killings" at local hospitals. This fictional scene follows Dr. Laura Callon as she maneuvers through her trial and the day that Katrina hit as well as the days after. She goes through the memories of the levees breaking, the hospital filling with water, the generators not working, the doctors and nurses leaving and the moment that she was confronted by one of the family members of one of the patients that died during the storm at the hospital. It is an emotional conversation on both sides where we see the pain of the loss of a loved one, but we also begin to understand why the mercy killings may have been humane. This scene opens the doors to the conversation of people making life and death decisions in an instant and what the aftermath can look like. We go from past to present as Dr. Callon stand by her decisions given her circumstances. In a courtroom that is against her, families that are against her, coworkers that don't even stay long enough to assist. Hard decisions were made by her that day and as the verdict is being handed down will she be found guilty or not guilty of first-degree murder or will the jury understand that walking a mile in someone else's shoes can sometimes mean literally walking through a hellish storm. Katrina is a name that will never be forgotten in American History.

83. First

In a time when school shootings have become an unfortunate way of life a teenage Rachel Woodard is living in her own private hell. The challenges of being a teenager, not being understood by her peers, not feeling loved at home and no one to talk to when the worst day of her life happens, she shifts, breaks, and does the unthinkable. Often after these shootings during mourning those who lost their lives, the world wonders, “why?” Often this question is never answered. For Rachel, who finds herself a viral sensation when her classmates bully her, take unspeakable pictures of her and post them online ruining the little piece of self-worth she has left, she reaches out to everyone for assistance. No help from her schools’ administration, no help from her peers but the most disappointing moment is the realization that her mom/dad doesn’t care to support or help her. Sometimes the answers are right in front of us, but we don’t want to see them, we don’t want to take responsibility for being the person or group of people that could have made a difference in this young person’s life and didn’t. Her mom/ dad always wanted Rachel to be a “star.” Sadly, when Rachel is waiting for her execution for the shooting that she orchestrated that day her mom/dad comes to visit, and a lot of these questions are addressed. In her final moment all Rachel wants it to be told by her mom/ dad that they love her. Instead, their focus is on the crowd of reporters outside and how they can make this her shining moment as the first female school shooter. Hence, making her a “star.”

***This piece specifies that Rachel’s mom or dad can be either or for the purpose of the script.**

84. Teenagers Guide to Surviving an Alien Invasion: They’re Here

Two friends narrate a scene that starts with them seeing an alien ship in the air circling around them. What do they do next? They try their best to save themselves as well as the audience by taking us on a “Guide to Surviving an Alien Invasion.” In a series of vignettes, the two friends show the audience a slew of different ways that they could survive this invasion. With a lot of energy, laughs, and interesting situations the story quickly goes from zero to one hundred. By the end of the scene, we have had: a ship hijacked, aliens taken hostage, an alien friendship develop, a scene reminiscent of Rambo, video games, and besties. What more could you want from a survival guide? Do they save us all from being eaten alive by our alien enemies or like any other alien movie do they get eaten or dragged onto an alien spaceship never to be seen again? With the imagination of these two friends absolutely anything is possible.

85. Voices in My Head

One of the most challenging situations for teenagers in the present time is suicide. Preteens and teens are killing themselves or attempting to kill themselves at alarming levels. In this scene we meet Kameron Beck, a teenage girl who has walked into her high school with a knife in one hand and a gun in the other. As she walks blankly down the hall, she clearly has a purpose, to find the dark hall closet. She

walks into the closet and the scene begins. This is not another school shooting, this is a suicidal teenager who feels safe in the one place that looks how she feels, dark and alone. The scene travels through different interactions in her present life: with her best friend who recognizes something is wrong but wants her to “get over it,” her mother who loves her and sees her sadness. She tries to help her by listening and supporting her, but to no avail. Finally, we hear from Kameron who shares what she is feeling as her “voice” tries to push her to get the job done. This is a story that shows us the power of depression. It’s not just about the suicide or the fear of a school shooting, it’s trying to find the words to explain these feelings and why asking for help is so difficult. Kameron is left with a choice: she can either choose life or death. As we hear Kameron’s voice, the voice that lives within her as well as the reporter outside all their emotions are real and present. ***(This scene comes with two endings for the performer or director to choose from.)***

86. Thief of Love

Natalia and Santiago are a married couple that has been together and happy since childhood but now in their mid-twenties Natalia begins to see a change in her husband that she can’t explain, and sadly neither can he. There is something that is off about him, he’s acting different: irritable, distant, more focused on his phone than on her, and not into their relationship like he used to be. She begins to ask herself the questions that one always asks in this situation. What did I do? What is he hiding? Why won’t he tell me what’s wrong? She confronts him with this and he explains to her that the machismo bullying that he experienced with his family was so strong that he couldn’t live the life that he wanted to live so he found someone that he loved, that loved him and kept all the rest of it a secret. Santiago shares with her his darkest life secret, that he is gay. He has stolen her life from her. The person she loved the most is a *Thief of Love*. He finally breaks his silence and tells her his open and honest truth, and she listens. It is in the last moments of the scene that we see the love they both have for each other while recognizing the struggle that machismo can put on any man who wants to rise above the negative comments and be themselves. *****The scene may be edited to fit performers of any ethnicity. The essence of the scene is the idea that there is a “manliness” or “machismo” that is an expectation for some boys/ men.**

87. Teenager Guide to Surviving a Horror Movie: Run, Run, Run!

When two narrators get together after they walk out of a horror movie that one was truly disappointed in because it didn’t make, “In real life it would never happen like that!” They decide to say all the things and do all of the things true horror movie lovers have said and done- and they promise to get it right. The scene goes into a series of vignettes addressing the different ways that they would survive every kind of horror movie. From the Cheerleader in the Woods, The Horror Movie Game Show to what would William Shakespeare do, these two narrators take us on a ride of action and comedy that should leave the audience laughing and thinking if they found themselves in the same situation what would they do? Would you run

towards the only house in the empty field with the creepy family on the porch? How would you kill the giant spider or the werewolf? In this think on your feet comedy tour of horror be prepared for the unthinkable...as you should in any good horror movie. **(The narrators may be any gender.)**

88. The Chemistry of Tolerance

Huiliang and Aiysha are an Asian American and an African American pair of very smart girls. When they walk into their chemistry class and find out they are partner's the tension between them is clear but only from Huiliang. Aiysha doesn't understand why her partner seems to hold so much attitude towards her. As the class continues Huiliang's anxiety starts to boil over as Aiysha takes over the experiment and the girls begin to discuss the real problem: Huiliang has an issue with Aiysha because she's black. This sparks a deeper conversation as Aiysha begins to probe Huiliang as to where this hate comes from. One would think that she would avoid this girl, her attitude and her comments that are not very nice but instead she wants to know why she feels this way, and, in her probe, it comes across that she clearly wants to help her. Through the scene we see that both girls are extremely smart, and dealing with some deep inner stresses that, in this moment has brought them together. Their mother's, the meanings of their names, how smart both are and how in this moment maybe a chemistry assignment might just be their first experience with how difficult it is to forgive and how sometimes tolerance is the answer. This story explores how two very different people can figure out that they have something in common that could possibly take the pain away that is wrapped up in the word, "hate." A story of two very different, very smart girls learning a lesson that would have never been taught to them in any schoolbook.

89. At First Hello

This is a story of infatuation that reminds us that when the red lights of our inner self begin to flash, we should immediately stop and walk away. The first time Kallen meets Lucy he immediately falls in love with her. She is a nice girl who meets him on the first day of school and sees he's the new guy, so she introduces herself to him. Little did she know that in that introduction she would change the course of her life. Kallen begins to stalk her in school, outside of school but in his presentation, she sees him as harmless and very nice. There is something a little off with him and when she finally has that realization, she dismisses it and continues to talk to him. It is in a study meet up that Kallen can't hide who he really is as he, what he really feels and what he really wants. He accidentally tells Lucy "I love you." Words that are usually welcomed by the receiving party, but Lucy didn't see Kallen in this way. When he points out all of the things, she had done that made him feel this way, she explains what those things really were to her. She finally walks away and told him and tells him to stay away from her. It is in the upcoming days, when Kallen comes to school with a gun and begins shooting people that Lucy finally realizes. As she hides under a table trying to call her mom, listening to her classmates and friends being shot that she accepts the only thing she wants is to live. Eventually he finds

her, she plays into him... will she be able to talk down a killer or will he take her with him?

90. **While You Were Away**

Farid, a Muslim American man in his late twenties attends the long-awaited funeral of his daughter. The funeral had to be postponed in hopes that Melanie, a Caucasian American, would wake up from a comma. Months earlier while in her final trimester she was the target of a hate crime by a man that had threatened the couple for months. Warning them that there is a debt to be paid by "his kind" in America. Finally, Melanie awakens and has told her the loss of her daughter. When she returns home and the baby room has been turned into an office she can't understand or accept that Farid has decided to move on without their daughter, "erasing" her from their lives. Farid argues that he had to make all the decisions for their family while she was in a coma, and he did his best. This is an emotional story that starts with a hate crime but goes much deeper when two people who have loved each other since they were teenagers must stand over the casket of their daughter at her funeral and work together to get through the most difficult moment of their lives. While they are standing side by side it is the most alone that either one of them have ever been. Will they be able to sweep the pieces of their relationship back together a move forward or will the end of this funeral also be the end of their love?

*****The male character needs to be a person of color, but the lines may be edited to reflect another race. Please contact the publisher for specific cuts/ edits for this specific purpose. *****

91. **Together**

Daniel is a ten- year- old boy who is very aware of the truths of his life. His mother loves him, his father is an abusive cheater, and his big brother Justin is his superhero. Justin is a teenager, but his focus is on making sure Daniel knows how much he is loved. The most difficult truth of their lives is that today is the last day that they will spend with each other as their parents are divorcing and by the end of today, Daniel will be living with his mom, and Justin will be with his dad. Daniel wants what every kid wants, his family to stay together, his parents to get along and his brother to always be with him. Unfortunately, he has experienced a lot in his young life including verbal abuse from his father. He talks of memories of his father and mother yelling at each other and the reason for their breakup is that the father has cheated again. On this last day Daniel is going through a lot of emotion, and how he deals with that is going to a place that gives him the power that he feels he doesn't have in his real life. Justin comes in and does what big brothers are supposed to do, he makes Daniel feel safe and goes with him on his adventures. On his adventures Daniel and Justin are allowed to be heroes. They save children from burning buildings and help people who need someone to save them. It is in these moments that the boys are in their element, laughing, smiling, having fun and

supporting each other. Through it all this is a story about the weight that one brother is willing to bare to keep his little brother safe.

92. Life Letters

Sisters Rafaella and Violeta are natives of a very dangerous city in Mexico and were able to escape to America. They have been in the country for years, living the dream, made a home for themselves together. They live together and work together at a laundromat. They love their job, but more than anything they love their freedom and being able to send money back home. During their shift at the laundromat ICE agents come in and detain all the workers. Violeta, as the big sister, tries to warn Rafaella to run but she doesn't, at first, she hides, then freezes up and allows them to take her as well. Once in custody they take them to a detention center. They are terrified that they are going to be deported but something worse happens, they are separated. Rafaella finds herself stuck in a small cell with many people and for the first time in her life she finds her voice, she has to know. Violeta is deported back to Mexico and Rafaella stays in the detention center. Now the sisters communicate through letters and because they love each other they lie saying that everything is great in Mexico and that Rafaella is the manager at the laundromat- all lies. As people we lie to the ones that we love the most, they don't want the other to worry. But also, within that special relationship and bond is the ability, even though the words of a letter, to hear their loved one's pain. As the story ends the sisters remember the good times and finally come clean about the present. Violeta's illness that she contracted while at the detention center and Rafaella's life moving from detention center to detention center. Even through this they find the words to support each other, love each other, and continue writing their *life letters*.

93. American Dream

Racism is one of the most difficult topics in American history and a topic that is often not talked about at all. In *American Dream* we see the story of two very different women Lucia, a Mexican American woman and Emerson a Caucasian woman both working at a detention center as officers. They come from very different backgrounds and have two conflicting ideas of what their job means. For Lucia, her parents did the right thing, they filled out paperwork, waited years for everything to come through and be legal before entering the country. But it is her feelings about the detained immigrants that creates the conflict. She believes everyone should have to wait like her family did, but Emerson believes that people should always be treated as human beings no matter what the reason is that got them where they are. Emerson is a passionate officer who wants the best for the detainees. It is a difficult reality when one of the children, Isabella is denied her inhaler. The two women differ on so many fronts, but it is when the life of a child is at stake that Emerson puts her job on the line to save this child and Lucia does everything in her power to follow the rules. When does it become okay to break the law, regardless of how you personally feel about it, to do the right thing?

94. *Message from My Hero*

Selena and Sofia are typical sisters. They love each other and are the best of friends. When Sofia notices changes in her sister, and she is forced to address it with her. But it is when she takes a deep dive into her sister's issues that she realizes that her sister Selena has been screaming for help. Help with the things that are going on in her life but also the things that have a hold her head. Depression and how it manifests itself is different for every person. For some it is a lack of interest in all things they use to love, while for others it is a gained interest in doing things that would be considered unsafe. Selena's depression is overtaking her life, ruining her relationship with her parents, and making Sofia worry about the toxic way she is living. In the end Selena makes a decision that will forever affect her life, but not before she reminds Sofia that she's always been her hero.

95. *Mariachi Melody*

Sisters Dulcea and Catalina are two sisters who work with their father in a Mariachi band. Their father's dream was to be in the band with his daughters and to become an American citizen. Unfortunately, the girls begin to see a change in him. Watching him person some of his favorite songs and not being able to remember the words. They immediately knew that something was wrong. He is soon diagnosed with Alzheimer. The girls do everything in their power to keep up the bills in the house while both taking care of their father as best, they can. But the harder they work; the worse things seem to be getting. His health ultimately fails, and he passes away. This is a story of ultimate love and the importance of supporting family. A true vision of what a family is willing to do to stay together and care for each other during sickness and pain. Playing the music that had always been a part of their home and their father's life. A beautiful story of the connection that sisters have and how it can never, even amid the worst of realities, stop supporting each other. ***Characters are both Mexican American and will speak Spanish throughout.**

96. *Justice Song*

In August of 1955 Emmitt Till made history. This is not what he wanted but when he was tortured and murdered in Mississippi for supposedly "whistling" at a white woman. His mother Mamie Till always stood strong to her belief that her son would never do that but the story as told by Carolyn Bryant held strong for decades. Until 2017 when in an interview Mrs. Bryant came clean and admitted that she had lied, that Emmitt never whistled at her. This story will forever be a part of American history for the horrific crime and the justice that never came for the Till family. In Justice Song we see Mamie and Carolyn at a fictional meeting at the gates of Heaven. For the first time Mamie is taken back in history, back to 1955 so that her and Carolyn can sip tea and have an honest conversation about Emmitt's actual interaction with her. This story is pure fan fiction and does not depict any actual meeting, but if Mamie were able to ask Carolyn, if she were able to ask her what happened and why, what would that look like? Will the answers ever be enough to

justify the murder? Will forgiveness ever be possible in such a horrific situation? In this lovely story we see two women grow, learn, and end one of the most difficult untold stories in American history, the “what if” conversation between a loving mother, and the woman that changed her life forever.

***This scene is complete fan fair and does not reflect actual events.**

97. Life Changes After 9/ 11

When India native brother and sister Advay and Prisha moved with their parents from India to America, they were young and excited for a new experience. Their parents wanted them to be able to have and experience all things. Unfortunately, on September 11, 2001 their teenage lives changed forever. After the attacks, now seniors in high school, they began to experience a lot of hate from, they felt everyone. People looked at them differently. Seeing them on the street they crossed to the other side, people feared them for no reason other than what they looked like. Prisha handled this better than Advay did. She understood why people felt the way they did while Advay hated people for the way they made them feel. The siblings talked about it a lot. They confided and leaned on each other, and they were genuinely best friends. One night they decide to go out for dinner. When Advay goes to the bathroom Prisha is accosted by a man who confronts her at the table then physically attacks her. Advay is too late to help his sister. While trying to recover in the hospital the two siblings must have a difficult conversation on how their lives are and will be for many years to come. Will they be able to move forward together, or will they not be able to continue their ever so strong bond because of elements out of their control?

98. Lifetime of Learning

Derek, a five- year- old African American boy and Joel a five- year- old Caucasian boy have the best friendship. Their first meeting in the scene is on the playground in elementary school as they figure out how they can share their lunches and from that moment on they are friends for life. Their story moves through from elementary to high school where Joel plays sports and Derek engulfs himself into reading books, classes and keeping his grade up. Though they are focused on different things the boys are still able to maintain their close friendship. They talk about their differences and love each other through it. The final scene is the boys in college on the day the George Floyd video comes out. Joel doesn't understand why Derek is so upset and tries to get him to explain why he's so angry. Derek is tired of being the “one black guy, the one black voice” and now he wants action, he doesn't want to have to take Derek's hand and walk him through why 2020 was a difficult time for all black people is not just “those black people.” Joel is genuine in his love for Derek, they are best friends, and both have seen each other as family. The conversation brings them back to a moment in high school when Derek gave Joel a book to read. In this moment Joel gives Derek the book back, now realizing that he truly cares for his friend. Joel quotes the book, “I Too” by Langston Hughes and they end with

preparing for a protest together, like the brothers that they know they are and have always been.

99. *Friendship Forged Through War*

In war the most pressing visual tends to be death and the carnage that is left behind. Families grieving the loss of their loved ones overshadows the few true friendships that come out on the other side of this ugly thing called war. For Binh, a Vietnamese war veteran who fought with American forces during the Vietnam war, all he wanted was to live his dream. Binh's hope was that if America won the war, he would be rewarded for his dedication by being allowed to come with his family to America. During the war Vietnamese soldiers were brought to an American camp and that is where Binh first met Max. Max was an American soldier who just wanted to get through the war so he could get back to his kids. He wasn't expecting to meet someone who would become his best friend and someone that he would not soon forget for the rest of his life. Both men had a lot in common: sons, wives, reasons to live, and a love for wanting to get back to live out all of that. What originally brings them together is what will reunite them when they both arrive at the unveiling for the Vietnam Memorial. Having not seen each other for decades at first, they do not recognize each other. Just two old guys sitting on a bench, but eventually after a conversation they realize they had found their friend again. The men flashback to the war and what brought them so close together, they share their memories, laughs and their unwavering love and appreciation for each other and the sacrifices they both made for each other. A beautiful story of how sometimes the tragedy of war can bring two very different souls together in a way that no other experience could. Brothers in war- brothers for life.

100. *Teenagers Guide on How to Survive High School Drama*

No matter how many times a teenager tries there is absolutely nothing that they can say to make their parents understand how extremely difficult it is not only to survive high school, but to survive all of the high school drama. This story is a simple one, two students come together in the middle of the hallway of their high school and realize as they look around that there is just too much drama to not share it with the audience. In a series of vignettes, the audience will experience the highs and lows and complete ridiculousness of high school drama in its most honest form. Whether it is the drama between two best friends, the natural drama that you would get from a theater class, the drama that can only be brought to life in the principal's office, the football player drama, the nerd drama, and the drama that is often not spoken about... the teachers' lounge drama, all drama is worth exploring. Maybe this will give every parent a little insight into their child's daily life, maybe it will just make you remember back to your high school years when the same exact drama existed. Regardless of the memories it brings back for you in your life, high school drama is if nothing but consistent... and constant!

101. *Teenagers Guide on How to Survive a Relationship... or Not*

Some adults would say that the most ridiculous thing they have ever seen and experienced is the teenagers true attempt to engage themselves in deep rooted good old-fashioned love. But the older you get the more you realize and look back in reflection about how terrible and tragic high school relationships are. So, in this Teenagers Guide on How to Survive a Relationship... or not you will see a deep dive into the ins and outs of the treacherous path for the high school teenage relationship. From the first date mistakes, to the tricks of dating a mama's boy, to watching teenagers stay on their phones as the only means of communication, to the revengeful and crazy ex, to finally possibly finding their happily ever after these stories should spark interest, humor, and make us all who are adults thankful that high school is over, while the teenagers in the room will laugh with complete and utter understanding. Relationships are difficult so any opportunity we get to laugh at this is time well spent! ***The author gives permission for any combination of pair to perform this selection. Change pronouns as needed.**

102. *The Dreamer*

Sometimes it is the most chance encounters that are the ones that have the power to change us the most and are the most impactful on our lives. The moment that Lee stood outside of Margot's office was a moment he will never forget. She was rude, he was combative and yet they had to work together as a team. Lee is in the United States of America on a student visa that has expired. His lawyer Margo must figure out how to best defend him in order to help him stay. Getting caught making inappropriate comments further divides the two as the wonder if this partnership is even possible. Lee continues to say that he has a greater purpose for needing to stay, a justification for not filing his paperwork, but Margot reminds him that she needs specifics, much more to defend him that he is not willing to give. The two do not see eye to eye from the very beginning coming from different places, having different understandings, and different backgrounds even in basic communication. The one thing that they have in common is that they both genuinely want to win. As Margo works to defend Lee, she also learns a lot about herself, her history, and the biases that she lives with. While she examines herself Lee must realize that if he wants understanding and change, he will have to trust someone that he does not know and have faith in someone that has not proven themselves to be worthy. Through the telling of the story, we see two very different people come together for one goal and in the end, we recognize that sometimes what makes us different has the possibility to bring us together. A story that centers around the ability to work through adversity for the sake of a greater cause. ***Within the text of the scene Lee is Vietnamese.**

103. *When the World Around Us Talks*

Imagine a world where all the inanimate objects that we take for granted and use every day had the ability to talk. Taking for granted the simple things, the watch that we wear tells more stories than just that of time. If these things had the ability to tell us exactly how they felt about the things that we are forcing them to be used for. What would their

story be if we took the time to think... and listen? In this story we hear from inanimate objects that we have turned into items of power and items that sometimes result in violence. The voices of the walls of a long-standing university that has been through over a century of change, a tree and a noose that don't want to hurt people anymore, and the badge and the shirt of a police officer we finally hear their voices. They speak of racism from a very different perspective, and yet still a valid voice. If they could talk, if they had an opinion, if we were forced to listen, would we be concerned about what they have to say about humanity or the lack thereof? A story that uses poetry for transitions the hope is that we get a better understanding of the things that we use and have used for centuries if they had feelings. The hope is to gain a better understanding about our actions and the things that we do that create a history that we cannot hide from, we cannot erase, sometimes we cannot see from another perspective, but we cannot ignore.

104. *My Brother's Keeper*

Srihan and Nick have been best friends since they were in elementary school. Srihan and his family moved next door to Nick making them the one and only Indian family in the neighborhood. Nick lovingly welcomed him with open arms, and they became fast friends, even brothers. After they are accepted to the same college Nick had one ask of his brother, he wanted him to pledge the same fraternity so that they could further be connected. But unfortunately, during a hazing incident going terribly wrong racism and violence deal Srihan a terrible hand. As hazing on college campuses all over this world continue to cause physical and mental trauma two their students this story is just one that represents so many. As the court case unfolds and Nick is forced to recount what happened that night, we see what students are willing to subject themselves to for the sake of being part of a social group that may or may not have their best interests at heart. As much as these two young men fight for their lives there are negative forces that they have no control over and sometimes, unfortunately, those forces. Will Nick have the courage to stand up against the worst kind of bully, the ones that he introduced into their lives and once trusted or will his guilt, grief and their intimidation overcome him? A story about a conversation that parents, teachers, and professors should have with their college bound or college attending students.

****One performer in this story must be of Indian descent.***

105. *Failed Choices*

Some of us live all our lives focused on what is to come after we die. This unfortunately is information that we won't know until we get there if there is a place. For Nevaeh, a woman who is just waking up to a strange place that she has never seen before in a world that she is unaware of, she connects with the first person that she sees. Lucy, a woman with the clipboard and a whole lot of power seems to be the intake person of this new- last place, Hell. It is during their interaction that Nevaeh realizes not only is she nowhere near home, but she is also never going back. As Lucy transports Nevaeh to different points in her life to help her understand that the choices that she has made while she was living were important, they mattered, and they also affected the people around her, reality starts to take shape. We make choices every day some

of them good and some of them bad but all of them are things we must live with or die by. As they travel through time to different experiences in Nevaeh's life that she had dismissed she begins to understand how she made it to where she is. Nevaeh tries desperately to understand her truths and her new reality while learning one of the most difficult lessons in her existence, that every choice we make matters to someone even if it doesn't matter to us. *Seri-comedy*

106. Charm School

Rachel prides herself on not being the typical and not being like anyone else. As she sits in the living room watching a game show, covered in popcorn kernels, and drinking soda her mother enters and watches her from afar. Something is just not clicking. Rachel is smart, very talented and in her mother's, mind should represent herself a little bit classier as a "lady." Rachel normally dresses the way she feels comfortable in t-shirt and sweatpants, she's messy and doesn't clean her room and her mother, who loves her, wants more for her. She wants her to be the presentation of what could potentially later in life be a Stepford Wife. Rachel wants none of it. She wants to be who she is, interesting how individualism presents itself in many ways. Rachel finds herself at odds with her mother who then hands her a pamphlet for Charm School. She is whisked away to a place that she immediately hates. Everyone wears a uniform, the girls look the same, talk the same, and the woman in charge is everything that Rachel is not. But through her time and experiences there she realizes that who everyone wants her to be is not who she truly is. But it is when she makes a friend at the school named Nicolette that she starts to see both sides of this coin. Change is not always good for everyone, but it is good for some people and if we want to be accepted, we also must open our minds to accepting those that find comfort in change, even if it is in a Charm School. As she reflects on all the negative things that have been said about her, she realizes that the Rachel she wants to be is perfectly fine just the way she is.

107. Nice Life

It is often said that "Dogs are man's best friend." For Jill this isn't just a saying but a large steppingstone and turning point of her life was the day she was given her dog. As an awkward child who spent more time bonding with her stuffed animals than she did with other children she found having the companionship of a dog to be one of the greatest gifts her mom ever gave her. And in that very first moment when she held the dog for the first time and asked what it wanted its name to be she swears she heard the dog say, "Nice." And a forever unbreakable friendship was forged, a bond like no other was born. Jill and Nice become the best of friends going on adventures together when she is younger. Nice taught Jill how to be an independent little girl and make friends at the same time. But it is when she starts to get a little bit older that we see Nice assist her through her first day of kindergarten, middle school, and into the fears of high school. As she progressed in school Jill always worried that she wouldn't be able to succeed at the next level. A coming-of-age story that allows us to see that sometimes the most important bonds that we have are in the animals that we consider to be family. Through the laughs, the tears

and the life lessons Jill in the end must figure out how to live her life as an individual in the memory of her best friend... Nice.

108. *One Ask*

Nick and Hazeema are the typical college couple that literally met each other when Nick knocked Hazeema from her feet in the bookstore. They smiled and their eyes connected and then they laughed and that was the beginning of their relationship that lasted for three strong years. But unfortunately, the lesson that we learn from this love story is that sometimes love doesn't conquer all because sometimes there are other elements within the relationship that can stop them from growing together as a couple. Hazeema is a practicing Muslim who has chosen to wear a hijab as a part of her religious faith and commitment. While she has had conversations with Nick about her faith and he has attended mosque with her there comes a moment when they must both come clean and be honest with each other. She hasn't been honest with her parents about who he is, and he has been hiding some truths about her from his parents as well. When the time comes for both to meet the other's parents everything begins falling down. Hazeema has not shared with her parents that Nick is not Muslim, but Nick has one ask and this one ask is what forces Hazeema to realize that no matter how much they love each other, the relationship, unfortunately, must come to an end. A story about love and the very real reality that sometimes no matter how much we love someone other factors can force us to be honest with ourselves and let the relationship go.

***Hazeema needs to be represented by a performer that respectfully wears a hijab.**

109. *For Halona*

Sakari is an Indigenous teenage girl who's desperately searching for her missing little sister Halona. Sakari loves her sister more than she can even explain but as she stands in the street corners handing out flyers and posting them on light poles, we see her desperation overflow. All of this in hope that someone will listen to her, have understanding or tell her that she is being seen and that this matters. Halona has been missing for three weeks and it feels like no one cares but her and her sister's best friend Grace. But it is when the two girls are presented with the possibility that if Halona looked different the police and the news media would be much more interested in reporting that she is missing. This is a story about a sister who is doing everything in her power to find her little sister while utilizing the support of her sister's best friend. What they find out after an unintended social experiment is that sometimes the color of your skin will decide your fate. That sometimes doing the right thing means that you are actually going to do the wrong thing for the right reasons. But sometimes as we see in this story those are the moments that we need at just the right time. When we are desperate and someone we love is depending on us what we need is for someone, anyone to listen. ***One of the actors must be of Indigenous heritage.**

110. Mommy's Meet-up Club

When Ann, a new mom, finds herself emotionally stressed out from the challenges that her life now presents. To save her sanity she reaches out to one of her friends and sorority sister Kate. Kate leads a mommy and me meet up group that assists all levels of moms with the anxieties that they experience. This can come in the form of Joni who is a proud mother of 10 but finds it difficult to keep count of all of them, literally and stresses that she has to deal with minute by minute of keeping up with them. Or Danielle, the mom who gets her stress release by making sure that working workout a part of her daily life all day every day. Natalie who is very much the Zen mom who believes that everything can be fixed with the right amount of breath, orange energy and yoga. And finally, let's talk about Kate, on the outside she seems like she has it all together and that is exactly why Ann went to her, but the truth is that like any great mom she has her own issues that she is trying to avoid but she realizes she must address them head on. This is a high comedy and high energy story about a group of women who come together and realize that sometimes what a mom needs is a place to come and yell and scream, run and play, pull their hair out and put it back. But the one thing that these women have in common is that all of them aspire to continue being wonderful mothers, and they believe in supporting each other in any way possible to make sure that each one of them is successful at doing exactly that.

111. Teenager Guide to Living With AI: We Liked it Better When They Were Robots

Told in a series of vignettes, this story centers around with evolution to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how exactly we are supposed to handle it. What are we supposed to do? Sit back and let it take over, or like the Jedi's do we take up arms and fight back! (Nonviolent, of course ☺) With two Narrators to guide us through a series of possible ways to win the fight we see a series of options to beat AI and win back the world! This action-packed high comedy is full of twists and turns that shed some fun light on AI and our interaction with it. From social media to attempting at reprogramming it to maybe making it fall in love with us... or another AI... or itself! The opportunities for success or possibly epic failure are truly endless. But in the end our storytellers find themselves exhausted, a little better educated and maybe just maybe... at peace with the world... PROBABLY NOT!

112. In a Perfect World

Raj and Shriya are best friends and have been for many years. They are finally celebrating Raj's 21st birthday and official coming out. He's having his first drink and he's finally come to terms with the skin he's in. As he dances at the club with Shriya something tragic happens, without any warning Raj is struck on the head with a bat. The sound of the crack of the bat plays like the soundtrack of this scene throughout out as Raj leaves the real world and upon losing consciousness wakes up in his "perfect world." In this perfect world gay people are the respected people and straight people have to gain permission through a voting system to be able to live in the most elite neighborhoods. It

is now 2043 and when he sees Shriya she explains to him how things have changed. How everything that Raj ever expressed wanting has no come true. But as he explores this new home that he so deeply loves Shriya tells him that because this isn't real she can't stay there and he has to leave with her if he wants to save himself in the real world. This brings about a fight with the two best friends as she desperately pleads with him to come back so that they can work on getting him out of the hospital together. Raj doesn't remember, he doesn't understand why she would want him to leave his perfect place for a hospital bed and endless hate. There is something to be said about being forced to face your fears rather than running away from them. In the end Raj decides to come back and endure but first Shriya must walk him through how he slipped into that coma and how what should have been the best night of his life quickly turned into the fight of his life. ***Actors may be any gender and change pronouns as needed to properly tell the story. Please e-mail business for name change permissions.**

113. With an Open Heart

One highly underrated conversation in life is that we all have the families that we are born into but the more we live life we find that we also have friends that become family. This is the case for Heba and Zahra two girls who met in elementary school when they walked into a room and finally saw someone who looked like them. Both girl's families came to America from the Middle East and their friendship was instant. Unfortunately, as they grew older their friendship took a turn when they found themselves in constant competition with each other. They found themselves being 1st and 2nd to each other for many years and eventually it took over their friendship and put them against each other. As the two girls stand hand in hand waiting to hear the announcement of who is going to be their class valedictorian, they had forgotten what was really important between the two of them. They had forgotten all of the years that they spent leaning on each other through difficult times when people didn't understand or care to understand who they really are and where they come from. The years that they spent keeping each other safe and defending each other from racism within their educational experiences. The years they spent loving and supporting each other as best friends who had become sisters, sisters who loved each other were how smart they were, how funny they were, and how amazing their friendship was. You can always count on a tragic life experience to focus you back on who and what is really important in life. When they finally realize that when it comes down to it, nothing is more important than that friendship. We get to see a full coming of age circle happened for them. This is a story that should remind us all that the most important thing we can have in life is the unconditional love of someone who understands us and accepts us for who we are.

***Performers could be any gender but being from the Middle East is an important part of the story.**

114. Sister Song

Asian American sisters May and Ashley are much like any sister- sister duo, they love each other, fight like cats and dogs and always come back together for movie nights and play fights. But as they grow up, they have grown in different directions. They both use

to sing and excelled at it but eventually May decided that it wasn't for her and Ashley began college and is focusing on vocal performance as a major. Through the scene we see them celebrate their sisterhood with memories and laughs, performances, and play, and have difficult conversations about how older sister Ashley wishes she had the outgoing personality of little sister May, and May wishes she had her sister's voice. As hate crimes in America against Asian people soars the sisters are forced to face the reality that there are people in this world who will not like them not on their merit but simply on the way they look. This story follows the sisters as they attempt to live their lives and maneuver this new world while avoiding the crimes against them, until one sister becomes the victim of a hate crime. They must come together to support each other through a difficult time as one sister is mistaken for the other in this senseless attack and how heavy the guilt of that mistake weighs on the other. Eventually, they figure out how to move forward in love and in song.

***Note: this story has two endings for the performers to choose from or mix as they see fit. The performers in this story must be of Asian descent.**

115. *The Clearing*

Sisters Isla and Daniela are inseparable. They are growing up in Mexico in an area where they don't have much but they have each other and that is honestly all they need. One day as they play with their dolls outside there is an attack and as they hid in the bushes they watched in horror as their neighbors and even their parents were killed and they were kidnapped. Years later the girls are working in a kitchen for their captors doing as they are told to stay alive. But when Isla hears of a group of liberated women that live freely in the jungle, she desperately wants to go there but her big sister Daniela isn't so convinced. What if it's a lie or a trick? What would happen to them then? Because the most important thing for them is to stay together and to stay alive. When the moment comes to run, they both leave but are somehow separated in the darkness of the jungle, will they make it to the village of the women and once again experience freedom, or will they be forever lost as they search for the clearing? ***The performers in this story will speak some Spanish. The performers must be of Latinx descent.**

116. *Remember Me*

In 1945 near the end of World War 2 military forces were desperate for medical personnel and specifically nurses to travel to support their troops. Rebecca, an American woman whose brother had been drafted decided to participate in an accelerated nursing program so that she could go and support the troops. The moment she lands she realizes she is in way over her head but also embraces the reality that she has chosen for herself. She believes in nursing, serving people, helping to bandage soldiers so that they can continue to do their job for the country. It is in the midst of her trying to help people that she gets lost in a massive rice field where she literally trips over a soldier from the other side. Without even thinking twice she drops to her knees and begins to bandage him up realizing that if there are more soldiers like him close that she will be taken in as a POW. But luckily, as life would have it another woman arrives in the rice field and tells the soldier to never tell anyone that that he saw an American nurse and to run. This is the

first encounter of Rebecca and Linh who spend only a matter of hours together but in those hours their friendship is forged, built, strengthened, and challenged. It is sometimes in the unlikeliest of situations and circumstances that we find a lifelong friend. And many years later on July 4th as Rebecca celebrates her 80th birthday she crosses paths with a beautiful woman that looks just like her friend that she has not seen in 35 years. Both with tattered notes in their hands after all of these years they kept their promise to each other, to celebrate their 80th birthday together in New York City over a slice of pizza and a bagel. A story of war. A story that reminds us that even in the midst of the worst of situations it is still possible to come out of them holding the hands of a perfect stranger who eventually in a short amount of time becomes family.

117. Death of a Dream

Rachel and Isabella are typical teenagers living completely different lives. Rachel is going into her senior year in America where life in her world has been nothing short of perfect. Where Isabella is a teenager living in a Mexican orphanage after the tragic death of her parents and siblings. But through letters Rachel and Isabella not only become friends but they become sisters and it is through this sisterhood that Rachel's parents decide to adopt Isabella and bring her to America. Rachel told Isabella how wonderful it is to live in her neighborhood, experience her family, attend her school, reminding Isabella that she would be loved as if she were a member of the family. This is the love that Isabella not only needs but has hoped for since she lost her family. As Isabella gets comfortable in her new home she begins school. It is in her walk to the cafeteria that an announcement comes on telling all of the students to shelter in place. This announcement was different, it was followed by screams and a gunshot. The gunshots continued, there was an active shooter on their campus. All the things Rachel told Isabella about, school shootings in America wasn't one of them. Because of the chaos they were unable to connect with each other physically but through messages Rachel told Isabella to stay put and the police would come and get her. But what happens when a young girl who has lost everything is confronted by a shooter who wants her to do 1 simple thing, run. Isabella decides to take a stand that day, a stand different than the one she took when her family died. But in the end, both girls realize that each of the life decisions they made that day were what they needed to do at that moment in time.

118. Under the Oak Tree

Before the Loving vs. Virginia case was ruled on in 1967 which said that the State had no jurisdiction on marriage on the topic of race, for Loving it was if a Black woman could marry a White man. For these types of couples there was no love under a grand oak tree in the south. But in this story Simon, a Black man and Andrea, a White woman found themselves meeting on a neighborhood street as he delivered groceries and she failed miserably at hopscotch. But it was in this chance encounter that the two talked, laughed and decided that they would go against everything and begin to meet each other in secret at a large oak tree. It is there that their love was built from stories of their day-to-day life to arguments about if the

world would ever catch up to their love, they held tight to each other. But after decades of hiding, they decided to show up at the local courthouse and try to get married in a day and time when a Black man could not legally marry a White woman. Moreover, the fear of physical harm was a constant running through their minds. Because they knew their love was deeper than the law, their families or the government and though it may cost them their lives they would rather die married from love than to live apart and continue to be hidden. A story about breaking the color barriers of love, fighting for what is right, and realizing that there are things out there that people are willing to die for and for this couple it was the ability to call each other “husband and wife.”

***Script calls for one Black and one White actor.**

119. Brothers of a Different Blood

Shahzaib who wears a Pagg and Ahmed who is Muslim find themselves meeting under normal eight-year-old boy circumstances, they are neighbors. Unfortunately, because of a century’s old history between these two historic groups they are not allowed by their families to be friends. As children the boys don’t understand and so, they decide that they will be friends anyway, doing what little boys do. They secretly play football over the fence in the back yard, they talk at school and soon their friendship begins to feel like a brotherhood. But when Ahmed’s father finds out they have been communicating he is forbidden to talk to Shahzaib. This begins an argument between the now teenage boys focusing on the question, “When will Ahmed be old enough to stand up to his father?” And can Shahzaib respect that Ahmed can’t disobey his parents’ wishes just to be his friend?” To that both boys shamefully admit that they just can’t do that. But eventually the teenage boys become men, Shahzaib becomes a professor and Ahmed an activist. When a protest brings Ahmed to Shahzaib’s college campus he jokingly tells him to call when he gets arrested. But he’s proud of Ahmed, not only did he find his voice but he now stands proud leading with it. Unfortunately, it is on this night that what started out as a peaceful protest evolves into violence from both sides with the police in the middle. The men have finally found their voice and sadly the time may have come too soon for one of those voices to be silenced forever. A story about the powerful strength of friendship and how it is possible to overcome generational differences to see opposing forces as allies rather than enemies.

120. *Discovering*

When big sister Asha found out her mother was pregnant, she wasn’t sure how this extra person was going to fit into their lives. But in a matter of seconds of Priya being born the two would find themselves engaging in a bond that could only be imagined. Asha is a beautiful Indian dancer and as Priya waits to be able to dance as well as her big sister the two grow closer and closer. Often thinking of each other as best friends and sisters. But it is when Priya starts high school that she starts seeing the world through a whole new lens of admiration. She wanted to be more like the other girls in her school, free to date, free to wear whatever she likes, and free to try

to be popular. As Asha watches her little sister seemingly slip through the cracks she tries to intervene- tries to save her but Priya is determined to get on the cheer team, skip classes and date Jake. It is when things do not go the way she planned that Priya begins to question, if I can't be myself then why am I here? What is my purpose? Not realizing that at her age it's okay to not know the answer. She reflects on all of the ways she has disrespected her parents by the things she's done and all she truly wants now is to stand hand in hand with her sister and just... dance. Unfortunately, the time that Asha thought she would have to rebuild her sister is cut short and by the end she stands dancing alone with only the memory of her sister dancing with her. A beautiful presence lost before she truly had the opportunity to discover who she was.

121. **Run** (only available in Just Telling Stories VI collection)

“To walk a mile in my shoes,” is something that is often said in hopes of getting someone to understand how different it is to wear those shoes. In *Run* two characters whose names are simply White and Black encounter each other on a seemingly normal day. Another black man shot, another black man dies, another, another, another. When they interact the interaction is simple, do you want to know what it's like to be black? Do you really want to know? And in the shake of a hand White is transformed into Black and Black into White. Through a series of scenes White, who is now Black, experiences some historical situations that African American's have experienced. There is no logic to why the hate for Black exists. There is no reason as to why the escape to the racism is always the same, “Run!” With every escape the run takes us to a different time, another historical situation, another reason will result in White, who is now Black to run. This is snapshot into the emotional world of being nothing more than African American in America through history. The reason Running is the through line is because unfortunately through history African American people have often found themselves running for their freedom, running from captors, and running for their lives. *****This script requires one White performer and one Black performer; they can be any gender mix.**

122. **Kite**

Unexpected friendships can be some of the strongest relationships we will ever experience. For these two young men Yuze, a Chinese American and Kabir an Indian American their unintentional friendship had the potential to last a lifetime. When these two little boys meet on the streets of a marketplace in Chicago they become instant friends. Recognizing both of their families are in different places and not well represented where they presently live, they decide that while different they can still be friends and learn from each other. The two boys share a lot of their free time together, they're study buddies, share their culture's foods, and one big thing they shared from Kabir's family in India is there love flying kites. However, as we know after the fallout after 9/11 affected many people whom others decided “looked” like how the perpetrators looked and therefore had to be guilty of something. These roundups in many instances were unfounded and hate crimes for people from or who looked like they were from the Middle East soared in America. Kabir found himself on the receiving end of one such

circumstance and while Yuze tries to save him and his family Kabir decides that now is his time to fight. This is a story of friendship and the power that hate can have on the breaking apart or longevity of a country and a friendship. In the end what these young men are left with is what could have been a lifetime of memories and a kite... a past time of their childhood that will forever bring them back together.

123. *Deal Among Strangers or Friends*

The scene begins with the new kid in the elementary school Boshra, from Sudan and Tyler, the resident friendly kid meeting each other for the first time in the hall. They become instant friends as Tyler finds Boshra interesting because she's not like everyone else. He brings her to the front of the class by their world map so she can tell everyone about Africa. And so it began, two fast friends that went strong for many years until priorities separated them but an article in the school newsletter brings them back together but not as the friends they once were. Tyler is reporting on Boshra's community service project that aims to assist Sudanese people instead of the local community. Boshra is hurt that after all these years Tyler would even allow this article to be approved. He tries to get her to see his side, it's his job, administrators had his hands tied, he didn't have a choice. She doesn't buy it but, in an effort, to make everything right Tyler makes a deal with her, he will report whatever she wants, whatever she wants. Fast forward years later their paths cross once again. Tyler seeking out Boshra, he's made another mistake but this time he stood on pride and she begins to see a gleam of the Tyler she knew, standing in the hallway of their elementary school as the new kid and Tyler thinking "How cool, you're from Africa." The end starts the next chapter that feels like it is leading them back to the love they had so long ago. A reminder that righting wrongs has no expiration date, just be open to the apology, the restart and the deal. *One actor needs to be Sudanese or from another African country.

124. *Outlaws*

Teenagers Jesse and Billy have been best friends/ brothers since elementary school. Jesse the basketball star and Billy, his sidekick that is also his coach Billy recognizes he may not be good at sports but he is always paying attention, watching and learning, and as time goes on, he gets a pretty good eye for basketball. He assists Jesse with his form as they play a little one on one with each other. Nothing could tear them apart from each other except the one thing they knew was coming but they didn't see coming... life. They didn't anticipate that once high school was over, they wouldn't continue life together but a basketball scholarship took Jesse away and what is experienced as a breakdown of sorts makes Billy too unstable to do anything but watch Jesse from a distance. Even though Jesse always tries to visit when he is home from school Billy completely cuts him off. But like all tragedies something as simple as a night on the basketball court brings them together. Jesse wants to know why Billy walked away from their friendship and Billy wants to know how he could have walked. A coming-of-age story that reminds us to check on the people who have always leaned on us when life necessitates that the relationship must change. Some people adjust but for Billy he doesn't see a world

without the one person that gave him love and treated him like family, like a brother. It is a difficult existence when one feels like they don't have a purpose.

125. *The Onus*

The only thing Karter wanted in life was a wife, kids, "the dream" some would call it. When he met Peggy, he thought he had found the first piece. She was fun to be around. She made him laugh, they both wanted the same things out of life, and made his future look bright. Unfortunately, the lights on the dream quickly began to dim after the wedding. As he reflects on how he got to where he is, how it all happened he remembers the good times but now he can see the red flags that he refused to see and moved to the side in the beginning. She was exactly who she had shown herself to be but like so many people in love with love he was blind and wouldn't see the trainwreck coming... until it hit. Her attitude evolves, her inability to raise their children with love and piece, her "only me" reality is just not real. Eventually, Peggy's psychological abuse turns physical with Karter. Even in these moments as she degrades him, he still loves her, still tries to make it work, but it is in his reflection that he realizes he has to make a difficult decision for his sons. Does he stay and try to get back to who he believes they had once been or does he take his sons and try to start over? Sometimes the most difficult decision is the one you didn't have the knowledge to make the first time around.

126. *Close to Home*

Amara, a Latinx woman and Olivia are not only friends they are best friends who work together as low level journalists in Anytown, USA. The scene starts as a day in the life of these two women having water cooler talk in the break room. Between the coffee and updating on the rumor mill their morning is starting off quite nice. Suddenly through the glass they see a shift in the room, as everyone runs to look at the television. In a moment that is remnants of the beginning of 9/11 everyone stares at the television as they watch men, women, and even children being detained by agents. As journalists it is someone's responsibility to be the boots on the ground interviewing people, but when Amara is asked to go because she "speaks the language" she is offended. Even more disappointing is her friend Olivia doesn't understand why. Olivia means well, she tries her best to empathize while not realizing some topics like those dealing with race, are very difficult for people to understand who could never walk a mile in the other person's shoes. This situation hits home for Amara because it is only a matter of feet from where she lives. She knows these people, she's seen their children and can name them and their ages one by one. Does she stay in the safety of her job as a silent protest, or does she take join her neighbors in real protest on the street? When she finds herself arm in arm with her neighbors when a riot begins, Olivia watches in fear for her friend. When Amara is arrested, Olivia wants to help her friend but is met with deafening silence. This is a heartbreaking story that has become a normal part of our existence. Right or wrong, agree or disagree, there is a way in which we do things that are civilized, and outlined by our legal system. When the line of right and wrong overlap, when the "criminal" looks like

the victim, how do we find our friends and ourselves when these things are too *Close to Home*.