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**PRESS & MEDIA CONTACT**

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**ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY, THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE, AND SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE PARTNERING TO PRESENT #ENOUGH PLAYS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE THIS NOVEMBER**

*"Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Washington state. While school shootings dominate the narrative around children and gun violence, young people are more likely to be victims of unintentional shootings, domestic violence, or suicide. In fact, suicide accounts for 51 percent of all youth firearm deaths in Washington. Black children and teens in Washington are twice as likely to be killed by a gun as their white peers."*

**SEATTLE, Wash. - October 3, 2023** - Joining Arts and Culture organizations nationwide, [Seattle Children's Theatre](#) (SCT), [The 5th Avenue Theatre](#), and [Alliance for Gun Responsibility](#) have created a partnership to present **#ENOUGH Plays to End Gun Violence**. Staged readings of six 10-minute plays confronting gun violence, which were submitted by emerging teen writers, will be presented on stage by student actors at Seattle Children's Theatre on **November 6, 2023**.

**The Plays:**

- A Call for Help*** by Pepper Fox (Kentucky)
- A Disorderly House*** by Sam Lee Victor (New Jersey)
- Lightning Strike*** by Amanda Fagen (Montana)
- The Matter at Hand*** by Valentine Wulf (Washington)
- No Prospering Weapons*** by Justin Cameron Washington (Michigan)
- The Smiles Behind*** by Niarra C. Bell (Virginia)

Founded in 2019, [#ENOUGH! Plays to End Gun Violence](#) calls on teens to confront gun violence by creating new works of theatre that will spark critical conversations and inspire meaningful action in communities across the country. Now in its third year, #ENOUGH! has received more than 500 short plays by teen writers tackling gun violence. More than 100 organizations have participated in #ENOUGH!'s two previous Nationwide Readings in 2020 and 2022, involving nearly 2,000 artists and reaching more than 10,000 people.

For 2023, #ENOUGH! received 244 submissions from 36 states this past spring when it called on teens to write 10-minute plays on gun violence. Each winning playwright received a \$500 stipend sponsored by gun violence prevention organization Change the Ref, had their play published and licensed through Playscripts, Inc., and received a Guild membership and craft training through The Dramatists Guild. Winning plays were selected by renowned playwrights Idris Goodwin, Lauren Gunderson, Zora Howard, Samuel D. Hunter, David Henry Hwang, Octavio Solis, and Lloyd Suh.

Each organization's youth program - SCT's *Young Actor Institute*, The 5th Avenue Theatre's *Rising Star Project*, and The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation's Youth Program will each work to produce two of the six short plays. The final presentation will feature a crosspollination of young performers from each group and center youth activism in alignment with the values of the #ENOUGH national program.

For more information, please visit: [enoughplays.com](https://enoughplays.com)

#### **For Calendar Editors:**

**What:** #ENOUGH Plays to End Gun Violence | King County Festival

**Who:** [Seattle Children's Theatre](#), [The 5th Avenue Theatre](#), and [Alliance for Gun Responsibility](#)

**Where:** SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre - 201 Thomas Street Seattle, WA 98109

**When:** November 6, 2023 7:00pm. Runs approximately 90 minutes, no intermission.

**Cost:** Free; RSVP at [sct.org](https://sct.org)

#### **More Partner Information:**

##### **About The 5th Avenue Theatre:**

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of America's leading musical theater companies. We enrich the community we love with the art form we love—giving the Pacific Northwest a front-row seat to original powerhouse productions that go on to light up marquees and audiences all the way to Broadway. From the page to the stage, we bring passion and epic scale to every musical we create with big talent and bigger-than-life productions. As a nonprofit theater company and one of our region's largest performing arts employers, we spread the joy of great musicals with people of all ages across our region and state. Each year, we reach 30,000 young people through our nationally acclaimed education programs. Programs designed to develop new musicals ensure that the next generation of great musicals will be there to tell the stories that captivate tomorrow's audiences. On the national stage, we are a leading voice for the power of this art form to lift the human spirit. [www.5thavenue.org](https://www.5thavenue.org)

##### **About The 5th Avenue Theatre's Rising Star Project:**

The Rising Star Project is a professional mentorship program which allows students to

participate in all aspects of the theatrical process. Available to all students in Washington State ages 14-19, this program gives students the opportunity to learn from industry professionals while producing their own version of a mainstage production. Applications are now open for Rising Star Project: Something's Afoot. Early applicants will be considered for participation in the #Enough Play Festival. The Rising Star Project is a tuition-free program made possible by a generous grant from The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation.

### **About Alliance for Gun Responsibility:**

Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook, gun violence prevention has become a national priority. The Alliance for Gun Responsibility has worked to save lives and eliminate the harms caused by gun violence in every community through advocacy, education, and partnerships. Currently, the alliance is made up of three separate organizations based in Washington State. Which include, a 501 (C4) nonprofit organization known as the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, a 501 (C3) nonprofit organization known as the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation; and a Political Action Committee (PAC) known as the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Victory Fund. Learn more about our impact and how you can get involved at <https://gunresponsibility.org/>

### **About The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation:**

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation houses our program, public education, and implementation work. We have a robust volunteer program across the state organized into chapter teams. This model empowers volunteers to drive change in their communities by engaging in a wide range of grassroots activities, including organizing a phone bank, hosting a house party, visiting with a legislator, and attending rallies and other events.

### **About Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT):**

Since 1975, Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) has been a leading generator of new works, aiming to provide youth of all ages access to professional theater and theatre education. Under new initiatives, SCT for All provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and families. In addition, every first and fifth grade classroom in Seattle Public Schools can receive free tickets under One&Five. SCT's 2023-2024 season is supported by generous contributions from season sponsors Microsoft, ArtsFund, and The Shubert Foundation. [sct.org](http://sct.org)

### **About SCT Drama School: Young Actor Institute – New Work Development #ENOUGH!**

Students in this class will learn about theatre as activism while rehearsing to showcase original short plays from the #ENOUGH! festival. This class will present themes surrounding gun violence and its impacts to society and Students will participate in the national premiere of these plays on Monday, November 6, 2023. Young Actor Institute is SCT's highest level of actor training, preparing students for the world of professional theatre. These classes, taught by professional working artists, dive deeply into a variety of specialized performing arts disciplines.

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