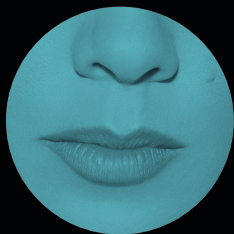
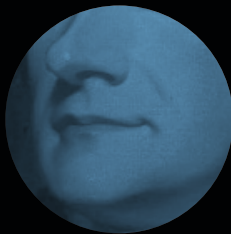




COURAGEOUS VOICES 2018

Performed by The Grade 8 students of E.A.S.T. Alternative School



The Process

The Courageous Voices project began with the grade 8 class at E.A.S.T. Alternative examining Joseph Campbell's *"The Hero with a Thousand Faces"*. Each student chose an individual they were passionate about and argued that person's case as a hero/heroine. After the students successfully convinced their teachers and peers, they researched the life of the hero/heroines and developed a speech in that person's words.

The performance is based entirely on the words of the courageous people the students have chosen. Each student also created a larger-than-life portrait of their hero/heroine. The class combined their speeches, weaving together portraits of their hero, the dialogue, and music into a powerful production featuring some of the greatest words ever written, spoken or sung.

We hope these words inspire you as much as they have us.

Notes From The Director

I am asked "Why do we study heroes and heroines? Why is this important?" My response is simple: all cultures have long passed on knowledge from generation to generation through storytelling and this is what Courageous Voices is all about. We are telling the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. By telling these stories we pass along their wisdom and teachings.

Education today is calling for transformative learning that inspires as it develops empathy. Courageous Voices is fundamentally about stepping into the shoes of another person, attempting to understand their feelings and perspectives, and using that understanding to guide our way.

- Lynn Heath

Scene 1 Fight the Man

The heroes in Fight the Man share similar beliefs and goals. Some of the ideals they fight in favour of include freedom of speech and expression, freedom of privacy, opposition of totalitarianism, and freedom of ideals. They were each willing to sacrifice their own fundamental rights for their cause.



George Orwell (Eric Blair) / Daniel Silva-Willinsky

George Orwell born Eric Arthur Blair, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist, and critic. His writing is focused on awareness of social injustice, opposition to totalitarianism, and support of democratic socialism. He immersed himself in the working class reality of his characters by working menial service jobs and living on the streets.



Edward Snowden / Carter Flach

Edward Snowden gave up everything including his right to be a citizen of the country he was born in to expose the truth about how many governments had agencies that were violating their own citizens' rights to privacies. This former FBI freelance operative was very important in the change and evolution of our privacy and freedom of speech.



Ai Weiwei / Matthew Grant

Ai Weiwei is an artist and an activist who fights for freedom of speech. He was exiled from China when he was younger because of what his father believed. He is an internationally recognized activist who spreads his message through art. He is an inspiration to all.



Alexander Hamilton / Roan Sherbin

Born in the Caribbean to a black mother and white father Alexander Hamilton was socially viewed as black. Despite this, he eventually moved north and fought in the U.S. revolution as a commander and was in charge of George Washington's communication. He then moved into politics and is considered one of the founding fathers of America.



Che Guevara / Ravi Butler

Che Guevara was a doctor who became a brilliant guerrilla warfare strategist during the Cuban revolution. He fought against dictatorships, imperialism, and U.S. domination. He was on the side of the people and believed that you should fight for what you think is right.

Scene 2 Walk with Me

Walk with me challenges stereotypical societal roles including women's rights and freedoms, and addresses body image and how we view ourselves. Through the journey of discrimination and hate, we were able to build towards self-acceptance for all genders.



Gloria Steinem / Hayden Clipsham

Gloria Steinem is an American feminist, journalist, and social political activist. She is best known for being an outspoken leader of the feminist movement in the late 1960's and early 1970's.



Nellie McClung / Jamie Paradi-Maropakis

Nellie McClung was an author and women's rights activist in 1916, a time when women were considered property. Nellie and other suffragettes (the famous five) gained the vote first in Manitoba and subsequently in other Canadian provinces. She was a strong, quick-witted woman who was far ahead of her time.



Ellen Degeneres / Skylar Peca

Ellen Degeneres is a successful talk show host and comedian. To get there she had to fight against the discrimination and homophobia being demanded within media. She was one of the first LGBTQ2+ persons to come out on television. Her actions inspired people to have LGBTQ2+ people represented in media.



Cassidy Sheng / Stella Seifried

Cassidy Sheng was a competitive swimmer whose dream was to compete in the Paralympics. At the age of six she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, at the age of seven cancer took her left leg. Although cancer ultimately stopped Cassidy from achieving her dream, her decision to speak out about her journey is an inspiration to young disabled athletes.



P!NK / Ani Unger Brandt

P!NK (Alecia Beth Moore) is an activist and songwriter who talks about feminism, self-image, bullying and LGBTQ+ rights. After her parents divorced she went through a difficult time in her life. Now she is singing and making inspiring speeches around the world.



Nick Vujicic / Eli Benner

Nick Vujicic was born without limbs as a result of tetra-amelia syndrome. He faced bullying and depression while growing up. Nick is now an inspiring motivational speaker who brings a message of self-love, loving others and anti-bullying to schools, prisons, online audiences (through his TED talk) and the public.

Scene 3 Out of the Darkness

Out of the Darkness focuses on genocide of cultural and Indigenous people during times of both war and peace. Every one of these heroes and heroines spoke up despite social or political oppression, to bring awareness to the impacts of genocide, both on the immediate victims and the generations after. Further, these heroes and heroines have shown that through the arts, we can all come together in healing and acceptance, despite our differences.



Michaela DePrince / Olivia Anderson

Michaela DePrince is a professional ballet dancer with the Dutch National Ballet. She grew up in Sierra Leone as a war orphan during the civil war. She is an inspiration, an advocate for war children, and strives to change the racial stereotypes in ballet.



Jan Carew / Cecilia La Rose & Jamie Paradi-Maropakis

Jan Carew was a politician, writer, and advocate for Guyanese Indigenous groups. He devoted his life to empowering and speaking up for Amerindian people, through writing, speaking and leading by example. His work was one-of-a-kind, and kick started the anti-colonialism movement in South America.



Antonina Zabinski / Ella Young

Former owner of the Warsaw Zoo, Antonina Zabinski was disgusted by the Nazis. After her zoo was bombed by the Germans in 1939, Antonina and her husband drove into the ghetto, smuggled roughly 300 Jews back to their zoo and hid them in empty animal enclosures for as long as they needed.



Buffy Sainte-Marie / Nora Wiens-Farrelly

Buffy Sainte-Marie was born on a reserve in Canada on Cree Territory, but was adopted by Americans, where she faced racism. As a singer-songwriter, activist, and educator, she speaks out about Indigenous rights, residential schools, and war, which got her blacklisted. She spreads messages of struggle, hope and love.



Pierre Dulaine / Caitlan Chau

Pierre Dulaine is a dancer and dance instructor who founded Dancing Classrooms and created the Dulaine method. Dancing Classrooms is a social and emotional development program that uses this method to help improve the lives of children and their families.

Scene 4 Save the World

Save the World is a scene dedicated to preserving the environment for future generations through activism. These heroes are trying to create awareness for environmental causes in some cases by sacrificing their own well-being for the good of the Earth. They're creating awareness and a voice for the rights of living creatures and communities.



Rachel Carson / Avery Foster

Rachel Carson was a marine biologist, conservationist, and author. She wrote four successful books. The most famous *The Silent Spring* helped to launch the environmental movement in the United States. Her message warned the masses and shone a light on the destruction caused by pesticides.



Jane Jacobs / Rowan Pendergrast

Jane Jacobs was a community activist who fought against redevelopment plans in New York and Toronto that would have destroyed or ruined many neighbourhoods. She believed that cities were for people not cars, and that everything should be people oriented.



Paul Watson / Neo Lumb

Paul Watson is a Canadian wildlife conservationist who has dedicated his life to protecting whales, seals, dolphins, sharks and all other kinds of marine life. He is the founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society which he began after leaving Greenpeace.



Wangari Maathai / Carolina Ellis-Kapitan

Dr. Wangari Maathai was an environmental and political activist. She won several awards including the Nobel Peace Prize and the Global Environment Award. She created the Green Belt Movement which is responsible for planting more than 51 million trees in Kenya, creating over 30,000 jobs and bringing skills to Kenyan women.

Scene 5 Freedom Fighters

The heroes in the Freedom Fighters scene fought for equality of all people, no matter their race. These heroes believed that once racism was removed, it would better our societies. They saw that many people didn't have freedom, and realized that change and action were needed and in doing so they altered the world as we know it. They faced personal persecution and discrimination, but were motivated to change society's norms.



Nelson Mandela / Edward Ni

Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa, and a freedom fighter. He is known as a key leader in the fight to abolish apartheid in South Africa. After his presidency, he became an advocate for peace. He died in 2013.



Nina Simone / Randy Randrianarison

Nina Simone was a black jazz musician, pianist, songwriter and arranger. She is known for civil rights protest anthems like *Young, Gifted and Black* and *Mississippi Goddam*. She fought against sexism, classism and racism.



Rosa Parks / Lola Fleming

Rosa Parks was an African American woman who was part of the civil rights movement. She fought for the rights of black people and in particular black women. She is well known for refusing to stand up one day on the bus - a key event in the fight for civil rights.



Barack Obama / Ian Montague

Barack Hussein Obama II is an American politician who served as the 44th President of the United States. He was the first African American to assume the presidency. During his presidency, he focused on equal rights and bringing the country together to overcome challenges.



Julius Nyerere / Wole Mponjika

Julius Nyerere is the first president of Tanzania. He fought for Tanzania's independence and succeeded. He was highly respected, and many people referred to him as "mwalimu" meaning teacher. He was one of the only presidents of Tanzania to willingly step down from power before their term in office ended.



William Wilberforce / Joby Grant

William Wilberforce was a member of the British parliament in 1780 who fought to abolish the slave trade. He drew great inspiration from his own hero John Newton. Known never to lose hope, William was successful in his efforts to bring slavery in Britain to a close.



Jesse Owens / Joe Anglin

Jesse Owens was an African American athlete who competed in the 1936 Olympics hosted by Nazi Germany and successfully won four gold medals. In doing so, he challenged the beliefs of Nazi party but throughout his journey he faced discrimination, segregation and racism.

Scene 6 In War be True

Everyone in this scene is passionate about sharing the impact of war. They have all faced different types of struggles, caused by different kinds of conflict. Whether it is a mental, physical or religious struggle, they have challenged how we as humans deal with and learn from conflict. Most importantly, they help us to consider how to deal with anger so that it doesn't blind us.



Ishmael Beah / Lucas Pinto

Ishmael Beah is a former child soldier for the Sierra Leone Armed Services during the civil war with the RUF, known as the rebels. When UNICEF rescued him from the war, he was rehabilitated. Ishmael is now an activist against war and has written about his journey.



Emmanuel Jal / Rebecca Harvey-Hurst

Emmanuel Jal is a former war child from South Sudan who has become a hip hop artist in his new life in Canada. He uses his art and newfound voice to be an international activist who brings awareness to the issues faced by war children and refugees.



Mariatu Kamara / Addison Grant

Mariatu Kamara is an author, the UNICEF Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflicts and an activist. She is a survivor of the civil war in Sierra Leone who lost her hands to that conflict. Today she speaks about defending the rights of women and children and how civil war impacts children.



Malala Yousafzai / Veronica Luo

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani education activist, well known for fighting for the education of women and girls in Swat Valley, in Northwest Pakistan. She is also known for being the youngest Nobel Peace prize laureate. She continues to advocate for education today.



Desmond Doss / Evan Cyr-David

Desmond Doss was an army medic and conscientious objector in the U.S. Army in World War II who refused to bear arms. After the Americans retreated in Japanese territory, he treated and carried to safety 75 American and Japanese soldiers. He was the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honour.



Shane Koyczan / Graeme Smith-McLeod

Shane Koyczan is a popular spoken-word poet who is well known for his viral poem To This Day, about being bullied as a child and fighting against bullying. He writes about many themes such as bullying, love, hate and self-acceptance.



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