

Just Kidding, Just Fine and Other Lies: Background Information and Production Requirements

The play, *Just Kidding, Just Fine and Other Lies*, was written by Jennifer Bobbe and The Voice, a Peer Education Theater Troupe made up of high school students at Spring Lake Park High School in Spring Lake Park, Minnesota. Creation and production was made possible by sponsors: Beyond the Mirror Arts Project, and funders: the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council in Minnesota, several Anoka and Hennepin County community agencies, individual donors. The production would not have been possible without the cooperation and resources of the Spring Lake Park School District Community Education Program.

The script was developed through an intense and lengthy process. Teenagers shared their personal, often painful, experiences through stories and poetry. Their experiences were communicated with intense language, vivid imagery and heart breaking emotion. Parts of these stories and poems were woven together and through this process, the realities of the physical, sexual, and emotional violence portrayed in the play come alive in meaningful and powerful ways. It is important to note that the show reflects the language, experiences, and emotions experienced by students who lived through verbal abuse and bullying. The stories are based on actual experiences. We elected not to edit the sometimes painful and often offensive language because to do so would not be reflective of what actually occurs. We hope that audience members are affected, offended, and committed to take action to end bullying and verbal abuse. We firmly believe that identifying the problem is only the first step towards ending the abuse.

Just Kidding, Just Fine, and Other Lies is a free production. We grant permission to produce this play without fees given by the authors and sponsors. The authors and sponsors wish to emphasize that there is an expectation that the integrity of the play's content be preserved. In addition, the play is a copy written production and we ask that mention of the authors (Jennifer Bobbe and The Voice) be noted whenever the production is performed. Having said that, we also recognize that certain artistic liberty may be necessary to keep the show relevant. As a result, we give permission for the student names to be changed without permission. If the production omits significant portions of the show or wishes to add additional language and/or scenes, written permission from Jennifer Bobbe is required. In addition, given the play's potential to evoke strong emotions and bring up painful memories, it is strongly suggested that post-play discussions take place to allow audience members an opportunity to process what they have viewed. It is also an excellent opportunity to ask attendees how they will change their behaviors in the future, thus ensuring a commitment to positive change.

Permission to produce this play without fees is given by the authors and sponsors. It is required that any organization/group producing the play, notify the author. Please contact Marlene Jezierski/Jennifer Bobbe via email at: jbobbe3@gmail.com for permission to use and/or alter the script. Please provide information related to production including where and when the play will be produced.