

LESSONS FROM THE STAGE PRESENTS



2016-2017 School Tour

A Vision For Performing Arts Students

**A one man show awakening students to their
powerful role as artists in the world**



A 50 minute motivational solo show performed
by Juilliard Theatre Graduate and Peak Performance
Trainer, Jesse Wilson, prepares
arts students for success in life and career after
high school and college

“Jesse Wilson has his finger on the pulse of this generation of students. An extraordinary talent, Jesse speaks to them in a way that touches their hearts and ignites their courage.”-- Judith Patterson, President, CEO US Performing Arts

A lesson for the stage. A lesson for life.

The majority of an actor's formal training focuses predominately on the refining of the stage character-- but what about the actor's character *off-stage*? What is the role of the actor in the drama of “real life?” It is my belief that if the actor/artist/performer were to change the way that they feel about and see themselves in the world-- not only on stage but in the entire business of living-- that such an experience can be highly transformational. After graduating from Juilliard and stepping into the role of arts educator, I've believed that there is a vital missing piece in the training and education of the artist and it has been my personal mission as an educator and a performer to help create an awareness of this essential and powerful ingredient. I have developed **FACE THE CITY**, an emotional and impactful tool to help transmit these ideas and to raise personal awareness for those on the path of performance art.

FACE THE CITY is a wake-up call for young artists embarking upon their professional careers. This entertaining, deeply impactful, and informative program delves into the heart of relationships, art and commerce, rejection, authenticity, fear (Creative Risks), humility, and personal integrity, to name just a few of the “big ideas.” **FACE THE CITY** is a metaphor for “the life stuff” students will inevitably “face” in “the real world.” The “city” can be the literal city like the dog-eat-dog world of New York, LA, or Chicago, or it can be the upcoming audition, the job in-between other jobs, the waiting, or the relationship, or the huge gut-churning creative decisions that can lead to disaster or total triumph by entering the unknown. **FACE THE CITY** is also facing the music, the dance, the voice, the writing... ultimately, **FACE THE CITY** is facing... and celebrating... *you*.



THE STORY OF FACE THE CITY

A young actor's dream is realized when he's accepted into New York's famed Juilliard school-- but the shattering news of a friend's suicide shadows his journey into the big city where he faces both exhilaration and self-doubt. Will he run away from his passion or learn to share his “voice” in the world of the arts in a new light? **FACE THE CITY** takes student's on a wild ride, bringing them “face-to-face” with the realities of the artistic profession, Life 101-- the greatest teacher of all-- and a vision of success that will inspire them long after transitioning into “the real world.”

THE “TAKE AWAYS” FACE THE CITY WILL GIVE YOUR STUDENTS

- cultivate personal responsibility in the professional world of the arts
- develop an improved self-image and self-expression in everyday life
 - handle setbacks effectively and creatively
- recognize and remove the obstacles that hinder the voice and mask the “real you”



*“Why not be yourself? Everyone else is
already taken.”*
--Oscar Wilde



About **FACE**. Beyond the Stage.

A workshop empowering students to “face” themselves and maintain the integrity of their voice in the “real world”

In **About FACE**, students will not only reflect upon and discuss the key concepts of the performance and how it relates to the craft of acting, but also the proper attitude with which the artist should pursue their passion.

Some of the key concept questions in the workshop include:

- Masks play an important “role” in **FACE THE CITY**. What are some of the masks you feel you've had to wear in your life? What would happen if you didn't have to wear that mask? What would life look like?
- Beyond entertainment, what do you think the role of the actor in the world serves?
- If you don't “get the part” you've auditioned for, do you feel it's a reflection on you personally? What happens to you emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually, when you've faced rejection?
- One of the great modern day acting teachers, Milton Kateselas, said this on the actor and their craft: “You contain all that is needed within you.” Do you believe that statement is true? Are there areas of your life you're unwilling to look at as an artist? Are they too painful to look at or simply not “interesting enough” to you personally?
- What are your personal thoughts towards Stanislavsky statement, “Love art in yourself, and not yourself in art?”





PRAISE FOR FACE THE CITY

From Schools, Teachers, and Students

*"Jesse has crafted an unbelievably thrilling collage of images, poetry and performance that vividly tells his coming of age story after high school graduation. The story is not Jesse's alone, since it is also a story of friendship, the very special kind that can develop in teenage years and which is then strained and scattered. The writing is personal, romantic, heart-rending and often very funny. Jesse is an engaging and most accomplished performer who audiences immediately bond with—you want to hear his story. The story itself, a tale of youthful dreams thrown on the rocks of reality, yet somehow surviving, is worth hearing, and is particularly suited, I think to young adults who will soon be making their own transitions into the larger world. Since it is designed to be portable, and playable anywhere, it seems to be an ideal presentation for schools, which will both entertain and instruct. I believe everyone will be richer for having seen **FACE THE CITY**."*

--Murray Ross, Artistic Director, THEATREWORKS, University of Colorado

*"**FACE THE CITY**-- the writing, the performance... a profoundly powerful theater experience. It has such passion, conviction, muscle, and deeply moving poetic language. A must see for any high school or college student!"*

--Craig Slaughter, Associate Artistic Director, American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco

*“The most amazing part of **FACE THE CITY** is the use of sincerely poetic language that tells this relatable story to students, allowing them to see the freedom and ownership that they have over their own lives. Our students were equally thrilled by the different characters brought to life by the mask work: the idea that a 'blank neutral mask' allows us to be anything we want to be really opened those thought provoking doors for the audience. It was wonderful.”*

-- Christy O'Connell-Black, Performing and Visual Arts Coordinator, Greeley Central High School

*“Our art students were incredibly inspired by **FACE THE CITY**. They experienced art and expression in a completely different way! What Jesse Wilson brings to the stage introduced some of our most talented and focused youth to a new form of self-expression that has made them richer as artists and people.”*

--Amber Cote, Program Developer, Success by 6 Director, Pikes Peak United Way

*“**FACE THE CITY** is a powerful and transformative theatre experience.”*

--Karin Henriksen, Summer Programs Manager, Colorado College Summer Arts Festival

“A cautionary tale, Jesse Wilson gives a powerful performance that goes right to the heart of what it means to be young and talented, facing a world that can break your heart.”

--Gerald Freeman, Chair, Social Studies Department, Los Angeles County High School for The Arts

“A theatrical affirmation of life.”

--Colorado Springs Independent

“A profound and moving experience.”

-- The Gazette

*“I was delighted with **FACE THE CITY**. Particularly impressed with both the writing of the script, which I found poetically developed prose, and with Jesse Wilson's performance. This is the kind of 'home-grown' expertise I want to have flourish in our community.”*

--Jay Miller, President, Pike's Peak Arts Council, Colorado

“I rediscovered my art again when I thought it was all going away...”

--Lorenzo White, visual art student

“Jesse Wilson is in the tradition of great performance artists, but I defy you to find anyone who does quite what he does, or with nearly as much bravery.”

--Christopher Goffard, Los Angeles Times reporter and author of “Snitch Jacket” and “There Will Be Fire “

FACE THE CITY promotional videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfuNpkFJE6k>
FACE THE CITY, promo #1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQaEu-4X4dc>
FACE THE CITY, promo #2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9gFzL57srk>
Student testimonials

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOdVU3FnneU>
“Faces On My Wall” the book trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFPS5I2D95I>
Jesse Wilson in “Mask Class”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qxhv7uDSdT8>
**“The Power Of The Obstacle: An Inside Job.” Jesse
Wilson’s TEDx Talk**



Share the experience of **FACE THE CITY with your students this year!**

The tools your students will be given to be prepared for “the real world” are, in the words of Sony Pictures CEO Peter Guber, “state-of-the-**heart**.” When you have a student's heart, you have their head, and this is how these life-changing tools will stay with them long after they enter “the real world” and continue to **FACE THE CITY**. I look forward to seeing your students boldly make their dreams way bigger than their fears as they embark on their journey's and make a positive difference in the world. I look forward to staying in touch with you and your students and their families long after **FACE THE CITY** has visited your school.

I am thanking you in advance for your dedication to help enrich the lives of young artists through this important theatrical and educational experience,

Jesse Wilson, BFA, MA
Peak Performance Trainer, Speaker, Performer, Author, Teacher
(719) 216-8390
jessekwilson@gmail.com
www.lfstage.com