

Corner Health Theatre Troupe: Charry Trim & Henry Perrin Long Haul Productions // MCACA Creating Connection project

Joey Albright (SCENE): Alright, so if I could just have people's attention for a quick moment. Um, my name is Joey Albright, I'm the director of the Theater Group. Thank you so much for having us in your meeting.

Joey Albright (SCENE): The Corner Theater Troupe is a collective of young people here in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and the surrounding areas. And they dedicate themselves to performing plays that deal with things like HIV and STI, dating violence awareness and other health issues that teens face every day.

Joey Albright (SCENE): You'll see the play, it'll last about eight or nine minutes ...

Joey Albright (INTERVIEW): We probably perform at fifteen to 20 schools a year and we probably see anywhere between a thousand and fourteen hundred students.

Henry Perrin (SCENE) Joey, just let us know when we can start.

Henry Perrin (INTERVIEW): My name is Henry Perrin and I am an actor for the Corner Health Theater Troupe.

Henry Perrin (SCENE): Hey!

Charry Trim (SCENE): Hey.

Henry Perrin (SCENE): What's up?

Charry Trim (INTERVIEW): Aren't you in my English class?

Henry Perrin (SCENE): Yeah.

Charry Trim (INTERVIEW): My name is Charry Trim. I've been a part of the troupe for six years.

Joey Albright (INTERVIEW): The troupe itself, some of them have experience with theater and acting. Some of them have zero experience. Some of them can hardly say their names out loud without being so nervous about it.

Charry Trim (INTERVIEW): My first performance was actually at my high school and that was really nerve wracking for me because I never really talked in school or to anybody at all. So that was like a big push for me. And the more that I've been in Troupe, the more I realize that this is what's helping me break out of my shell.

Charry Trim (SCENE): I love kissing him.

Henry Perrin (SCENE): I think it's time we have sex, Faith.

Charry Trim (SCENE): Yeah?

Charry Trim (INTERVIEW): The play is about two teenagers who decided to have sexual intercourse with each other and it didn't turn out the way that they thought it would.

Henry Perrin (SCENE): I have a condom.

Charry Trim (SCENE): I knew this was gonna come up sooner or later.

Joey Albright (INTERVIEW): It's really fun watching them grow, not only into their characters, but to watch them grow into themselves, and to watch that confidence build as they stand in front of classrooms as though they've been doing it their whole lives.

Charry Trim (SCENE): Do you think we're ready for this?

Henry Perrin (SCENE): Well, sure. I mean, I've had sex before. You've had sex before, it shouldn't be a big deal, should it?

Henry Perrin (INTERVIEW): Faith has contracted gonorrhea and possibly HIV. It's not quite clear if that's happened. And she tells this to Mark, and Mark gets very upset.

Henry Perrin (SCENE): Why didn't you tell me sooner?

Charry Trim (SCENE): Wait, why didn't I tell you sooner?

Henry Perrin (SCENE): Yeah, you're the one with a disease!

Charry Trim (SCENE): Who do you think I got it from?

Henry Perrin (SCENE): How am I supposed to know that?

Charry Trim (SCENE): You're the one who sleeps around!

Henry Perrin (SCENE): You're the one who wanted to get drunk.

Charry Trim (SCENE): And you're the one who didn't put a condom on.

Henry Perrin (SCENE): You didn't ask me to!

Charry Trim (SCENE): Then whose responsibility is it?

Charry & Henry in unison (SCENE): Good question.

APPLAUSE

Moderator (SCENE): Alright. Now it's time for some of our in-character questions.

Henry Perrin (INTERVIEW): Once the show ends, we give the audience a chance to ask the characters questions. And at this point. I'm still in character ...

Student (SCENE): Mark, you said you had a condom. Why didn't you use it?

Henry Perrin (SCENE): Well, I mean, I had every intention of using the condom. Short answer, I forgot, but I forgot because, I mean, I was on pot.

Moderator (SCENE): All right. What questions might you have for Henry and Charry?

Henry Perrin (INTERVIEW): Then we have the out-of-character questions, where they can ask us, the actors, questions about the whole thing.

Student (SCENE): Do you feel that sex is needed to have a healthy relationship or not?

Henry Perrin (SCENE): It depends on what you define as important in your relationship and how you communicate that to your partner. For some people, sex is something that they need in their relationship, but for others, it's definitely a less important part of their relationship, if not a part at all.

Student (SCENE): Do you guys feel comfortable talking about it?

Charry Trim (SCENE): Yeah, I like doing stuff like this. I like doing anything that makes me feel uncomfortable because I'm just a shy person in general. So doing anything or talking about anything that helps me get out of that comfort zone, it really helps a lot.

Joey Albright (INTERVIEW): I've seen it in the classrooms where I see people leaning over to the desk next to them and having a comment on the answer that was just given. In that classroom setting, they can connect with one another. They can feel that they are not the only people who don't know something or feel afraid to ask a question.

Charry Trim (SCENE): When you're by yourself or alone, all that stress and suffering in your chest, that hurts, that causes a lot of pain. When you open up your feelings to somebody else that's going through the same thing as you, it's like, whoa, hold on. Wait a minute. It's just like a relief. It makes you feel ten times lighter than what you did at first.

APPLAUSE

Joey Albright (INTERVIEW): I do keep in touch with some of the alumni of Theater Troupe. Many of them have gone on to college. Some of them have been through acting programs. A lot of them go into social work programs. I think they're inspired to do that just by being here at the Corner Health Center and seeing the work we do. They're all working hard and I'm happy about that. The one thing I do know that we gave

them when they were here was a voice and a chance to express that voice and a chance to try different things.

Henry Perrin (INTERVIEW): It's like, wow, I'm actually doing something cool with a talent that everyone has always told me is useless. Being able to use something that I never thought would be useful in a way that helps people, that educates people. It's awesome.

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