

# 2022-23 Program Report

**PLAY!**  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THEATRE



## Play! Youth Development Theatre

A responsive, modular program that utilizes the tools of theatre and creativity to enhance the wellbeing of K-12 youth, develops social and emotional fluency, and cultivates resilient school communities. Through interactive live theatre assemblies and classroom activities, the program creates dynamic and “safe and brave” spaces and helps to build awareness, empathy, confidence, and belonging.

Piloted in the Spring of '21, *Play!* is a culturally responsive theatre program consisting of multiple age-appropriate lessons. Activities allow students to express themselves through movement and embodiment, which provides physiological benefits and helps to regulate the nervous system, while at the same time creating opportunities for youth development.

Play! Youth Development Theatre offers in-class programming for grades K-12.

## 2022-2023 Programs Delivered

### **Safa's Story**

*4th-6th grade*

Bullying prevention

Live interactive theatre

### **Zion's Story**

*7th-12 grade*

Human trafficking prevention

Live interactive theatre

### **Play! In-class Programs**

*K-8th grade*

Social and Emotional Learning through theatre activities

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# Safa's Story

Since it was launched in 2018, *Safa's Story* has serviced nearly 20,000 children and family audiences in schools and communities across San Diego County and beyond.

In the 2022-23 school year, Imagine brought the program to 3,440 students.



*"Safa's Story Program made me think how I should use my voice to help others and myself."*

- 5th grade student

*"I learned about how to tell the truth, to say stop when someone is bothering me and to always be brave."* - 5th grade student

## Safa's Story Student Results, 989 Responses

- 93% expressed they now know how to better stand up for other people they see being mistreated.
- 90% expressed they now know what to do if they are being bullied.
- 73% expressed that they learned something new.

## Safa's Story Educator Results, 44 Responses

- 100% expressed that Safa's Story is effective in helping children gain empathy and compassion.
- 97% expressed the program prepared students well to stand up for themselves and others in moments of conflict.



*"The activities gave students tools to build empathy, and they were very invested in the performance itself. They wanted Safa to be happy, and they felt empowered to change her story."*

- 4th grade teacher

# Zion's Story

Developed in partnership with lived experience experts, the program was piloted in the Spring of '23 in response to school community requests for an interactive theatre learning experience to meaningfully engage this challenging topic. In its first year, the program served approximately 1,800 students.



*"I learned that communicating is important instead of pushing the people you love away."*

- 8th grade student

*"I found it helpful because I can now know what to do if something like that happens to me or my family or friends."*

- 8th grade student



## Zion's Story Student Results , 442 Responses

- Understanding of what causes an increased risk of being trafficked rose from 27% to 62%.
- Understanding of warning signs that someone is being trafficked rose from 79% to 83%.
- Understanding of the most common way children are trafficked rose from 54% to 79%.
- Understanding of where human trafficking occurs rose from 79% to 91%.

## Zion's Story Educator Results, 12 Responses

- 75% expressed that it was an effective tool for teaching human trafficking awareness.
- 75% expressed that it was useful to their teaching practice.
- 42% expressed noticing changes in attitudes or behaviors of their students.

*"The students were well informed about human trafficking, the warning signs to look for, and things they can do to stay safe. Overall, I felt this had a positive impact on the students, helping to raise awareness, and creating a space for them to ask questions and learn."*

- 8th grade teacher



# Play! In-Class

According to pre- and post-surveys conducted in the 2022-2023 academic year, students who participated in *Play! In-Class* programs reported an increase in upstander behaviors compared to pre-program results.

In both in-school and after school programs Imagine served approximately 1,600 students, with more than 10 visits with each class group.



*"I am impressed by this program and love how empowering it is for my students to share their ideas, write about their feelings, and collaborate during peer-relationship discussions."*

- 5th grade teacher

## Play! Educator Results, 10 Responses

- 100% of our participating teachers expressed that this program was effective in cultivating classroom community and connection.
- 90% expressed that this program was effective in increasing confidence and opportunities for student expression.
- 80% expressed that the program was effective in cultivating cultural competency in their students.
- 100% expressed that the program was effective in cultivating empathy and compassion in their students.

*"I love having [Play!] because it made me a new person a bit, and it was fun and I learned a lot about the classmates that I hated and now I don't think I will hate them anymore. The new words that we learned were fun to learn. I love working with my classmates and the groups were so much fun."*

- 6th grade student

*"It can change your life."*

- 6th grade student

*"It let me have more confidence in myself and helped myself know that it's okay to be different, you don't have to try so hard or try to fit in a lot just like others."*

-6th grade student



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