



PRESS Fact Sheet 2021 Season

Rev. 10/4/21

Tellin' Tales Theatre
360 East Randolph Street
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Chicago, Illinois 60601
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Vision:

A society where people of all abilities are accepted and equal, regardless of perceived ability.

Mission:

The mission of Tellin' Tales Theatre (TTT) is to shatter barriers between the disabled and non-disabled worlds through the transformative power of personal story. We bring together children and adults from both communities to share their stories in theatrically innovative productions and programs to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance.

Overview:

Incorporated in 1996, Tellin' Tales Theatre focuses on producing original shows that highlight adult solo performances. Soon after its inception, TTT added *Six Stories Up*, a workshop program and annual show where middle school children are teamed with adult performer/mentors; together they create an original play based on a theme with a curriculum-based component. While all of the productions of TTT include one or more performers with a disability, in 2015, a new show – *Diversity* – was introduced into the Tellin' Tales season that exclusively featured adult solo performers with disabilities. Each summer, a workshop takes place for young adults, which helps them develop their personal narrative skills. The culmination of their work comes when they present their stories in a reader's theatre performance for the public. Outside of theatrical venues, Tellin' Tales Theatre has visited schools, hospitals and other institutions to share their message of inclusion and to help others to tell their stories. TTT has also produced *Fashion Forward*, a fashion show/fundraiser that featured models with and without disabilities wearing original fashions by Chicago designers. In 2016, TTT's 20th anniversary year, it was one of three community organizations selected to have their story told in an original musical theatre work called *FREEDOM out of order* by Lyric Opera of Chicago as part of Lyric's *Chicago Voices* initiative. 2021 marks the 25th Anniversary of Tellin' Tales Theatre.

Leadership:

Tekki Lomnicki, co-founder and Artistic Director of Tellin' Tales Theatre, believes in the healing power of stories. She is an award-winning solo performer, playwright, director and educator. She has devoted her craft to finding ways to incorporate her abilities and those of others to perform compelling stories. Tekki performs her critically acclaimed solo work for schools, conferences and theater audiences all over the U.S. and Canada and starred in the award-winning film, *The Miracle* by Jeffrey Jon Smith. Tekki also taught for Chicago's Gallery 37 and After School Matters which grew into the acclaimed *Six Stories Up* for Tellin' Tales Theatre. She taught solo performance to adults at the Victory Gardens Training Center and continues to teach for Tellin' Tales. She is a recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship in New Performance Forms, the 2008 3Arts Artists Award in Theater and the 2010 Grigsby Award for Excellence in Solo Performance and the Dan Van Hecke award for outstanding leadership and service to the disability community. She most recently was recognized as a "Duke of Distinction" By School District 205. Tekki serves on the Inclusion Committee at Old St. Mary's Church and is the District 6 Vice President of Little People of America.

Website:

www.tellintalestheatre.org



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2021 Season:

Fillet of Solo

February 8 - 28

Hands Up! Police

Shows: March 20, 21

Diversity

Show: May 7 - 23

Solo Show - Genetic Karma: Becoming Our Parents

Show: August 20 - September 4

Teen Tales – The Truth of Rejection

Show: June 26 – July 4

Young Adult Writers Reader's Theatre – Identity Crisis

Show: July 24 - August 8

Hands Up! Gender

Show: October 28 – November 7

Six Stories Up in Defiance

Show: November 12 - 21