

THEATER INTENSIVE with Robert Hypes: "26 Pebbles"

Join producer and director Rob Hypes in a three-week theater intensive. Theater sometimes is not only about entertainment but also to enlighten audiences and give voice to our current surroundings and provide an open discussion with our audience. Give your child an opportunity to engage in this and to learn how to produce, design, and perform in a play. Over the course of this three-week workshop, the stress will be on quality of performance, individual coaching, and ensemble building. The show we have selected this summer is "26 Pebbles" by Eric Ulloa.

DATES: July 9—July 29

Times: Monday-Friday, 9 am—1pm.

Performances: July 27, 28 & 29

Tuition: \$150 a student (minimum 10, maximum 18)
(Scholarships are available!)

Ages: 12—20

MCAC Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Show synopsis: On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary and killed 26 innocent souls before "taking his own life." These 26 innocent deaths, like pebbles thrown into a pond, created ripples and vibrations that were felt far beyond the initial rings. Similar in style to the Laramie Project, playwright Eric Ulloa conducted interviews with members of the community in Newtown and crafted them into an exploration of gun violence and a small town shaken by a horrific event.

"Written similarly in the style of The Laramie Project, Mr. Ulloa interviewed 60 members of the Newtown, CT community. This one-act, monologue-heavy show covers a lot of topics from gun violence to mental illness to school safety. But the play avoids getting too "preachy" as some would say. It doesn't take a hard stance on pro or anti-gun control issues. Rather it focuses on a community trying to cope with a tragedy and ends with hopeful messages. In addition to allowing the audience to take in different perspectives, it also gives the cast and crew an opportunity to explore these themes beyond the text as well.

"While there are many sides to be taken on a variety of debates, no one would disagree that these school shootings need to stop. In times like these, silence is dangerous. A discussion needs to happen for issues to be understood and potentially resolved. By [having young actors perform] 26 Pebbles, it gives communities an opportunity to talk about their feelings and thoughts on a wide spectrum of issues." – Chris Peterson, Onstage Blog

Thanks to our sponsors, Central Valley Youth Legal Services and Zane-It, for helping keep tuition costs low!

Scholarship funding provided by the City of Merced. For scholarship information and registration, please call (209) 388-1090 or email director@artsmerced.org

