

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory Announces The WYSH
(Worcester Youth Speak Honestly) Project 2023***



Worcester, Mass. (28 June 2023)

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory is thrilled to announce the return of The WYSH (Worcester Youth Speak Honestly) Project. The WYSH Project 2023 will culminate in 3 FREE public performances at the BrickBox Theater July 14-15, 2023.

According to Meghan Montaner, President of the The Hanover Theatre Conservatory & Education department, “We know that the youth in Worcester have powerful stories to tell right now and we are eager to provide them with the space to do so. Theatre creates an incredible opportunity for us to share the diverse stories of our community. The collaborative nature of devised theatre allows each unique voice to be heard in a safe, supportive environment.”

The WYSH Project is a year-long program that includes creating an original piece of theatre, a

tour of the show to Worcester Public High Schools, a scholarship to take classes in the Conservatory and regular meet-ups throughout the year to see Broadway and others shows at The Hanover Theatre. This program is designed to give participants a public platform to share their stories and speak their truths. It offers young people a transformative experience that fosters leadership, creative agency, and an experience of community and belonging through the arts. The group meets for over 100 hours, using various arts-based activities to examine their lives as young people growing up in Worcester and to then transmute their experiences into a collaborative, ensemble theater piece.

“WYSH helped me understand that social change can be as simple as having a conversation filled with people who are active listeners. WYSH helped me create social change by providing me the platform to have difficult, yet necessary conversations with a mass audience,” said a previous WYSH participant. “This program truly changed my life forever for the better.”

Their original show will be performed in the BrickBox – part of the Jean McDonough Arts Center located at 20 Franklin Street on July 14 at 7 PM and July 15 at 2 PM and 7 PM. Last year, both the Mayor and the new Superintendent of schools attended the shows.

This program is supported and funded in part by the [Mass Cultural Council](#), a state agency, the [Greater Worcester Community Foundation](#) and the [Worcester Arts Council](#), a local agency.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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