

Stand Up! Stand Out! The Bullying Project

AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL

BY JEFFREY SANZEL AND DOUGLAS J. QUATTROCK

FEATURING

MELANIE ACAMPORA * ANDREW GASPARINI
AMANDA GERACI * HANS PAUL HENDRICKSON
JENNA KAVALER * STEVEN UIHLEIN
STEVE MCCOY, AT THE PIANO

Scenic Elements Design RANDALL PARSONS
Costume Design JENNA WOLFE
Additional Costumes BONNIE VIDAL
& TERESA MATTESON

Puppetry & Properties Design TAZUKIE FEARON
Choreographed by SARI FELDMAN
Musical Direction by STEVE MCCOY
Directed by JEFFREY SANZEL



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For over thirty years, **THEATRE THREE** has been presenting educational touring programs in schools across Long Island as well as the tri-state area.

These have been the major works:

And These, Our Friends, an anti-DWI program focusing on grades seven through twelve first appeared in the fall of 1989; it continued for over twenty-years before it was put on hiatus and reconceived as a safe-choices production. The play was filmed in 1991 by the AAA Foundation.

Since 1996, *From the Fires: Voices of the Holocaust* has played over 500 performances in schools, community centers, libraries, synagogues, and churches from as far south as Washington, D.C., to outside of Toronto.

In 2007, *Class Dismissed: The Bullying Project*, an original musical targeting grades five through eight, debuted.

In the spring of 2014, this program has been joined by *Stand Up! Stand Out! The Bullying Project*, an original musical aimed at Kindergarten through fourth grade.



Overview.

This is the story of Peg who witnesses the bullying of Nellie and how she comes to terms with her responsibility. Peg, like so many bystanders, is faced with the choice of standing up for Nellie or standing by. The aim of the play is to make our young people aware that doing nothing is doing something.

Stand Up! Stand Out! is specifically Peg’s story—the journey of an individual taking responsibility beyond herself. Peg discovers different ways that she can help Nellie without getting herself or others into trouble. The difference, as one teacher explained, between *tattling* and *telling* is that *tattling* is to get someone into trouble and *telling* is to get someone out of trouble.

In addition, the play outlines four different types of bullying:

1. Name calling and teasing;
2. Social isolation
3. Threatening
4. Physical bullying.

[We have specifically chosen not to address Cyber Bullying in this production given the target ages of the students.]

Each type of bullying is highlighted through the telling of a famous children’s story.

Synopsis

At Harrison Corner School, Nellie is bullied by Queen Bee Olivia as well as two rather rambunctious boys, Tyler and Jayden. Peg witnesses various taunts, including being left out of the games the children play on the playground and being the only girl in class not invited to Olivia’s birthday party. The bullying builds to the theft of Nellie’s doll (later revealed to be a gift from her grandmother before Nellie’s family moved). Peg ends up with Nellie’s doll but is too uncomfortable to give it back to Nellie in front of the entire class. She puts it in her backpack and forgets about it.

Under the direction of teacher Mrs. Cotton, the class is working on projects based on famous children’s stories. Each student has selected a different tale from which to create his or her piece:

Olivia:	<i>Cinderella</i>
Jayden:	<i>The Three Little Pigs</i>
Tyler:	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
Peg:	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i>
Nellie:	unsure

After witnessing additional bullying on the bus, Peg goes home and begins to work on her project. When she takes out her book, she finds Nellie’s doll which reminds her of her failure to act: “What could I say to them? They’re my friends. Besides, we’re all just kidding, right?”

While reading the beginning of ***Alice in Wonderland***, she falls asleep. In her dream, she is joined by a larger and puppet version of Nellie’s Doll—the Doll Puppet. The Doll Puppet becomes her guide in this dream world.



In this strange land, characters from the class' stories come to life in new contexts. Here, Peg is on the receiving end of bullying as shown in these archetypal tales. In these vignettes, Peg experiences types of bullying; after each confrontation, she gains more knowledge and understanding of what Nellie goes through each day.

Cinderella. Bullying type: Threatening. As Cinderella dressing her stepsisters for the ball, she is threatened into helping them and told of dire consequences if she tells of these threats. Additional elements of teasing and social isolation/exclusion are also part of this story.



Alice in Wonderland. Bullying type: Social isolation/exclusion. As Alice, Peg is told by the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, and the Dormouse that even though there is a seat that the table there is no seat *for her*. Further emphasis is placed on passing judgments on people whom we don't know.



The Three Little Pigs. Bullying type: Physical harm. As the Hay Pig, Peg is abandoned by her Stick and Brick siblings in the face of the impending harm caused by the Big Bad Wolf. Her brother and sister will not get involved for fear of being seen as friendly towards and therefore possibly being hurt themselves.

The Wizard of Oz. Bullying type: Name calling and teasing. Joining her compatriots the Scarecrow, the Lion, and the Tin Man, Peg as Dorothy is confronted by the very nasty Wicked Witch (in this case not “of the West” but “of your worst fears”). The Witch’s taunts aim at the friends’ deepest fears and weakness (no heart, no brains, no courage). Finally, it is here that Peg stands up for her friends. She has come to an understanding about the various kinds and dangers of bullying.

With these lessons in her mind and heart, she awakens and knows what she must do. The next day, in full view of the other children, she returns the doll to Nellie and finds out a little about the doll. She invites her to join in her project—which is to connect all of the projects with the themes she has learned. In addition, she invites Jayden, Tyler, and Olivia to also join in.