

EAT

It's not about food.

To: Schools and Organizations interested in *Eat (It's Not About Food)*

From: Jeffrey Grover, President – Fairmount Center for the Arts

Date: August 3, 2010

Greetings,

As you may know, Fairmount Center for the Arts produced the Ohio premiere of Linda Daugherty's play *Eat (It's Not About Food)* during our recent theater season. The play earned critical acclaim, and garnered coverage from media including The Cleveland Plain Dealer, WCPN's "Around Noon," Your Teen Magazine among others. The play explores many different aspects of eating disorders, with a particular focus on one young woman's journey as she struggles to overcome her illness. The play offers a clear understanding of a complex and often silent disease, all within the context of healthy eating, nutrition, cultural, peer and societal paradigms, obesity and other areas that impact today's youth.

Our several sponsors, including lead sponsor The Cleveland Center for Eating Disorders, had strong interest in bringing this production and its related discussions/content to the community. We fully intended to extend the reach of the play to area schools and community organizations beginning in September 2010 by creating our "tour."

Over twenty school district professionals experienced the production and the post-play discussions during its initial three-week run. Fairmount Center created a focus group under the direction of Dr. Mark Warren, bringing together teaching professionals, curriculum managers, psychologists/counselors, health care professionals, arts professionals, and leadership from area affinity groups. Their collective input has been utilized to create what we believe to be an appropriate construct from which to present *Eat (It's Not About Food)* to younger people, their families, school professionals, health care and counseling professionals and others who come in contact with adolescents.

Here is key information about our tour:

- *Eat* may be brought into a Northeast Ohio venue for \$1500.00 per performance
- *Eat* will be professionally produced with site coordination by our Stage Manager, Michael Regnier. The play is directed by Fairmount Center for the Art's Director of Theater, Fred Sternfeld
- *Eat* running time is approximately 70 minutes. This is available for all performance venues, including community as well as school programs

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- Community performances may be geared for parents and children seeing the play together on Monday evenings
- Performances may also be used for parents and educators
- A shorter 45 minute version is available for schools requiring shorter performance/program time
- The school performances using the 45 minute edited version will be for children whose parents have opted for their children to see the play alone, and/or for schools whose professionals/leadership prefer this option
- The Cleveland Center for Eating Disorders will provide one of their professional staff to conduct/facilitate post-play discussions after each performance
- Content will be provided in advance to area schools for use in communicating to parents/guardians the play's content, providing advance awareness as well as "opt out" should this be desired
- Post-play discussions will be created to specifically address key points related to the audience, in concert with the specific school/organization's input
- Content will be provided for ongoing reference/use by the school/organization, including key information about eating disorders, where to get help if needed, etc.
- An in-school small group delivery is also available (in collaboration with artist/professionals from Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio), for visual arts/dramatic classroom experiences for use within five days after the in-school performance
- At present, we are coordinating dates around the following days/times:
 - Monday evenings (most) throughout the 2010-11 academic year
 - Tuesday or Thursday afternoon (1:00 pm) for in-school performance/program for most weeks throughout the 2010-11 academic year

Please contact me, Jeffrey Grover in order to discuss your interest in *Eat*. We have received commitments from some schools, and are booking times on a first come-first served basis. We will be happy to discuss your specific needs. I may be reached via e-mail at jgactor@aol.com, or you may call me at Fairmount Center for the Arts at 440.338.3171

In advance, thank you for your interest.



Jeffrey Grover
President, Fairmount Center for the Arts

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