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Contact: Jane Cox
Governors State University
jcox1@govst.edu
708.207.1361

For Immediate Release

Shaping our Future using the Past Lessons from Anne Frank's story

Now Streaming at Governors State University

University Park, IL (December 1, 2020) There is an ominous shift in the teenager's tone. In a promotional video for "Through the Eyes of a Friend," actress Rachel McClinton's young character Sarah is almost whining about all the rules imposed on Jews during Nazi rule in Germany – yellow badges, curfews, segregated schools.

Within seconds the music slows and Sarah's face darkens as she talks about her classmates. "Over that year, a lot of kids disappear. Every day, someone's gone."

A composite character representing many of Frank's friends, Sarah is recounting the Holocaust from a unique perspective for [Governors State University Center for Performing Arts](#) (the Center) patrons.

"Through the Eyes of a Friend" blends theatre with archival footage to deliver a poignant portrait of friendship and survival.

Sarah conveys the pain, loss, and hope of young people during the Holocaust in a performance that encourages the audience to discover their personal awareness of stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination.

Though the story's themes are a dark reality, the show is part of a series that targets the hearts and minds of young people.

The Creating and Cultivating Compassionate Communities series' goal is to activate compassion and transform our world, said Jane Cox, the Center's Cultural Marketing Director.

"With a focus on social-emotional learning, the series focuses on educating and empowering our youngest community members."

The Center has presented the show each season for the last 15, but Cox said it's especially important this year as many Americans are feeling the pain of isolation as a health care enemy ravages the nation.

"An obvious parallel is between those individuals who were forced into hiding from the Nazis and the isolation felt by those of us who have been in quarantine and sheltering in place in 2020," Cox said.

"This program also illuminates how *gradually* freedoms were stripped from Jews and other groups and how fear bred prejudice, which bred hate, and ultimately genocide. Sadly, we see these seeds of hate being planted and sowed in our current climate. We must teach our children to be engaged and vigilant to prevent something like the Holocaust from occurring again."

"Through the Eyes of a Friend" is streaming now through Jan. 31, 2021.

Recommended for ages 10+

Tickets are \$15 per household and \$25 per classroom

Visit CenterTickets.net for tickets and to download the study guide.