

# 1 walk back 1 from the edge

a play about teen self-harm  
and suicidality

The Applied Theatre Center is proud to offer an interactive theatre experience addressing the public health crisis of suicidality among adolescents. According to the SC Department of Mental Health, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for ages 10-14 in our state. In this play, the student audiences are invited to discover and rehearse solutions to suicidal ideation for themselves and their peers.

*This production is touring to schools and foster care group homes in Greenville County throughout the 2022-2023 school year.*



APPLIED THEATRE CENTER

[appliedtheatrecenter.org](http://appliedtheatrecenter.org)



# walk back from the edge

## The Applied Theatre Center

The Applied Theatre Center is a professional theatre/therapy group led by Dr. Dale Savidge, a Registered Drama Therapist, and Rachel Rutkowski, who received her MA in Arts and Medicine from the University of Florida. Actors are drawn from the professional theatre communities at the Warehouse Theatre and SC Children's Theatre.

## The presentation we provide

Our presentation begins with *Walk Back from the Edge*, a 15-minute play that addresses the problem of teen suicide. The play is followed by a 30- to 45-minute period of audience interaction during which solutions to the problem are explored. The play is direct and realistic and might be inappropriate for some students. *We rely on you to provide an audience that will connect with the presentation and benefit from it.*

The central character of *Walk Back from the Edge* is Jessie, a 15-year-old girl who is returning to her school after having missed most of the previous year of classes following her suicide attempt. She tries to navigate challenges in:

- **her home** – a family that is breaking apart and creating stress for Jessie
- **her job** – another stressful situation in which she is not supported or understood
- **her school** – where other girls on her soccer team bully her

## The audience you provide

The ideal audience for this presentation numbers between 25 and 300 students who are:

- in 9th or 10th grade, navigating the new stresses of high school, and particularly those who are:
- identified by counselors as at-risk for self-harm or with ACE scores that indicate possible risky behavior

**IMPORTANT:** *Walk Back from the Edge* is not intended for entertainment or for filling a class vacancy. It is a dynamic and provocative encounter with the realities of teen suicidality.

## Technical & administrative notes

- **School staff:** We ask that school counselors be present at all times during the presentation. Afterward, we'll provide written material to support any teen seeking more information.
- **ATC staff:** Our performance company consists of 6 actors, a facilitator and a stage manager (8 total).
- **The performance space and on-site contact:** We ask that a contact person meet us 30 minutes prior to the performance and remain with us while we set up. *The performance space should be clear and ready to use upon our arrival.* We will not have time to move/remove obstructions prior to setting up. We will need the presentation space for approximately 2 full hours from the time of our arrival to our departure from your facility.
- **Audio support:** If the performance space is large, we request that you provide audio support for the actors and a tech person to run audio.
- **Lighting:** No special stage lighting is required and we like to see our audience while we are performing, so house lights should be left on.
- **Smartphone app:** We plan to use a smartphone app to solicit realtime feedback from the audience during the performance.

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### Contacts for further information

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