

VANGUARD THEATER

vanguardtheatercompany.org
info@dreamvtc.org

MISSION

Changing social and cultural narratives
through theater dedicated to **DREAM:**
Diversity, Reciprocity, Education,
Activism & Mentorship



MISSION AND VISION

WHO WE ARE:

- Vanguard Theater was founded in 2015 by two Black artists to address inequities in the theater industry. Vanguard challenges conventional social and cultural narratives through theater dedicated to **DREAM: Diversity, Reciprocity, Education, Activism, & Mentorship.**
- We approach our mission through
 - **color and gender conscious casting** in our Mainstage productions,
 - **ongoing education programs,**
 - **summer camps, and**
 - **opportunities for young performing, creative, and stagecraft artists to be mentored by professionals.**

OUR VISION:

Our vision is that we are recognized as a model for:

- purposeful inclusion of diverse voices and stories;
- casting and leadership that reflects our community, and
- partnerships that propel cross community conversations with non-arts organizations, including public, private and higher education, government entities, advocacy groups, and those serving populations with specific needs.



PROJECT
H A R M O N Y



- **Project Harmony Overview:**

- Transformative initiative bringing piano and vocal instruction to schools with high autistic populations.
- Primary purpose: address unique educational needs of autistic students using music.
- Aligned with Vanguard's mission of diversity, inclusion, and education.





- **Community Need:**

- Lack of accessible, tailored music education for autistic students in schools.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects social interactions, communication, and sensory processing.
- Music shown to enhance social skills, confidence, and reduce stress and anxiety.

- **Approach:**

- Utilizing one-on-one piano lessons and group vocal instruction.
- Music provides a unique avenue for learning and self-expression for ASD students.
- Recognizes diverse needs and creates an inclusive, supportive environment.



- **Target Population:**

- Schools with high percentage of students with ASD.

- **Benefits:**

- Beyond musical proficiency, reduces stress and anxiety levels.
- Aims to foster a supportive musical community within school environments.
- Promotes social interaction, collaboration, and communication skills development.
- Provides opportunities for holistic development and enhanced well-being of autistic students.



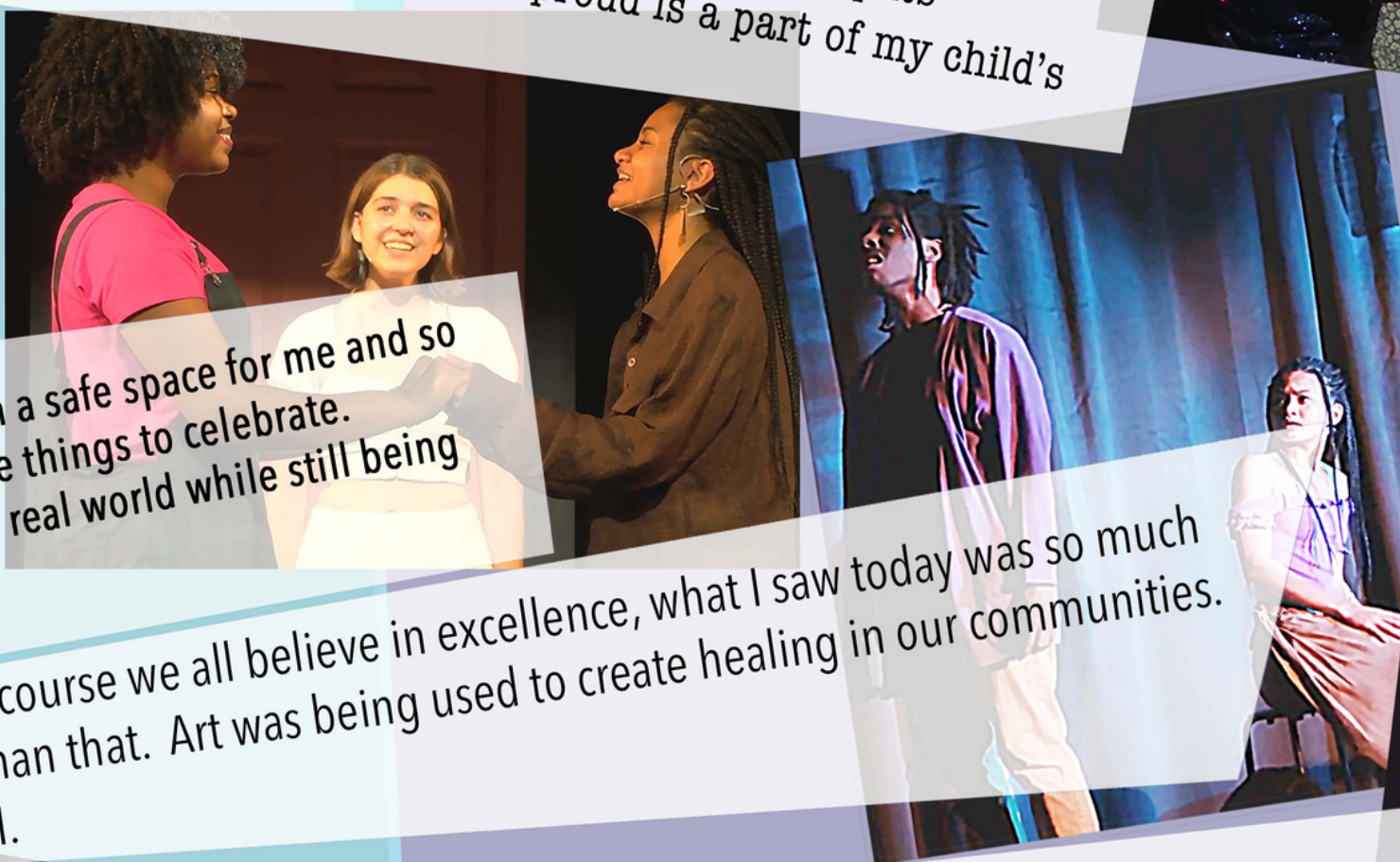
THE IMPACT

The journey that my daughter has been on while part of this process has been nothing short of transformational. I have watched her not only find her tribe, but her voice. You have cultivated a community of souls who intuitively and deeply trust one another. A community who puts service before self. A community that I am proud is a part of my child's life. Jessica B.



Through this process, I realized that Vanguard had become such a safe space for me and so many others. A place where my sexuality or someone's color are things to celebrate. Vanguard somehow manages to teach about privilege and the real world while still being a safe place, which for me is unheard of. Olivia R.

While of course we all believe in excellence, what I saw today was so much bigger than that. Art was being used to create healing in our communities. Stefon H.



As humans, we segregate ourselves because we find safety in those who share our background and common values. Through working on "Walk in My Gravity," we embraced individuality, diversity, inclusion, sexuality, and so much more, gained a deeper understanding and compassion for our peers, and felt free to break free from the racial and social boxes and cliques that are so widespread. Jordan M.



The beauty and art created in your group left me deeply moved. I am sure you know how important what you are doing is, but I just want to make sure that you know others see it. This piece and your process represents the best of our nature and creativity as humans. I am sure that these lessons and experiences provide a guarantee that long after we are gone, your students will remember them for as long as they live. Those lessons are not just about theater and music but about life, commitment, and excellence. Thank you. Bass player

**VANGUARD
THEATER**

dedicated to *DREAM*
DIVERSITY, RECIPROcity, EDUCATION, ACTIVISM & MENTORSHIP
VANGUARDTHEATERCOMPANY.ORG

180 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07042

VANGUARD THEATER

www.VanguardTheaterCompany.org
@vtcnj. #dreamVTC
info@dreamvtc.org

