



Survivor LOVE LETTER

counter**act**:

A MOBILE PERFORMANCE AND MURAL TOUR

Best practices in sexual violence prevention efforts use cultural solutions to solve cultural problems. Commissioned by Arizona State University and in partnership with the national #SurvivorLoveLetter campaign and Dance Exchange, CounterAct tours a mobile performance and mural series to center the arts in dismantling rape culture.

Dance Exchange builds and connects communities to deepen understanding of ourselves and the world we share. Fueled by generosity and curiosity, Dance Exchange expands who gets to dance, where dance happens, what dance is about, and why dance matters.

Survivor Love Letter is a movement for survivors of sexual assault and their allies to publicly celebrate their lives. Started by filmmaker and activist, Tani Ikeda in 2012 on the anniversary of her rape, #SurvivorLoveLetter has rippled out to become a hashtag, a letter writing campaign, and a viral social movement.

PERFORMANCE

"A body, home" is a multimedia, intergenerational dance piece on sexual violence performed in the back of a moving truck. The truck is a site that is public and prominent, but also intimate and personal. The 45 minute performance asks audiences to consider: what does it take to move from past traumas? What needs to get packed and unpacked in the process? What is the world that we are moving towards?

2 day residencies including one performance and two workshops.





MURALS: #SurvivorLoveLetter

Inspired by the brilliance and resilience of sexual assault survivors, these murals feature a growing embrace between a survivor and their younger self. With a collaborative design and painting process, SurvivorLoveLetter can create a monumental mural to honor a student survivor on campus or a prominent hero survivor in the world.

Permanent or semi-permanent cloth murals options are offered.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

CounterAct offers participatory workshops, sexual violence prevention and healing activities, as well as other actions during residencies. Utilizing a social practice artmaking model, we partner with students to create spaces of transformation and healing while centering the voices of queer and trans survivors of color.

Standard or customized workshops are offered.

Performance, Mural and Public Programming Objectives

- Increase mental health outcomes, college retention and persistence for survivors of sexual violence by publicly celebrating their resilience
- Provide concrete tools for supporting survivors of sexual violence
- Provide opportunities for somatic agency
- Foster skills for healthy communication
- Increase access to university sexual assault resources (counseling, Title IX reporting, housing and academic advocacy, etc.)
- Increase likelihood of speaking up when students see something they're uncomfortable with

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Survivor Love Letter Workshop facilitates a culture of nurturance and consent for survivors and their allies to write love letters to themselves and each other. These workshops invite students to speak their truth with poetry and prose, transcending trauma through collective healing. Willing participants will record their letters for activation in the mobile performance.

All CounterAct 2-day residencies include 1 Survivor Love Letter workshop & 1 of the following:

Arts-based Healing leads participants through 880 meditative steps to CounterAct the 880 acts of sexual violence that occur in the United States each day, while listening to a survivor-created resiliency sound mantra.

Rehearsal for the Revolution utilizes Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed techniques to practice the "4 Ds" of bystander intervention strategies (direct, distract, delegate and delay).

Collaborative Consent through movement in the body, participants explore the tenets of consent (freely given, reversible, informed, enthusiastic and specific) while exploring intimate harmony and collaboration beyond a simple yes or no.

Community of Care through movement that incorporates weight-sharing, this workshop explores how far and fast participants will go to support someone in need as a community.

Trauma-informed Artmaking introduces participants to arts-based tools that will help them keep collaborators and audiences safe while experiencing creative processes and products. Inspire students to be change agents of healthy sexual culture on campus and beyond. Situate the arts as a vehicle for campus cultural transformation.

TOURING COSTS

Moving Party	Mobile performance and workshops	Custom mural and workshops	Mobile performance and custom mural
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening of "A body, home" film • Artist-led workshop and Q & A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CounterAct multimedia performance • Survivor Love Letter workshop and student recording • Additional artist-led workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor Love Letter mural painting on campus location • Survivor Love Letter workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CounterAct multimedia performance • Survivor Love Letter mural painting on campus location • Public programming
\$5k	\$15k	\$15k	\$25k

Be in touch with elizabethj@danceexchange.org for further information or to book.

Past institutional partners:

Rutgers University
 New York University
 Arizona State University
 Williams College
 US Institute for Peace
 Yale University

Columbia University
 John Hopkins University
 University of Southern California
 Northwestern University
 James Madison University
 Wesleyan University

University of Virginia
 Texas Christian University
 Michigan State University
 University of Maryland
 American University
 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

Our work has been featured in:

The New York Times, The LA Times, the Sundance Film Festival, PBS News Hour, The Open Society Foundations, The Huffington Post, Upworthy, Teen Vogue.

WHO WE ARE: LEAD ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Tani Ikeda is an Emmy award winning director and co-founder of imMEDIATE Justice, a nonprofit that supports young women artists working with virtual reality. She created the “Survivor Love Letter” viral hashtag in 2015 to uplift survivors of sexual assault and empower them. Ikeda is a regular speaker at universities and national conferences around the nation where she discusses storytelling as a tool for social justice. She worked with the Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors in a documentary TV series about LA County’s 3.5 billion dollar jail plan called “Resist.”



Elizabeth Johnson (EJ) is a choreographer, dancer, and educator with a focus in socially engaged dance practices. Johnson connects communities through choreography, creating dance that promotes civic dialogue, and designing participatory experiences that apply artistic practices in multiple contexts. She is the Associate Artistic Director and Director of Partnerships at Dance Exchange and co-directs the CounterAct Initiative at Arizona State University, which is creating a national model for centering multidisciplinary arts in campus-wide sexual violence prevention efforts.



Nik Zaleski is a playwright, director and facilitator rooted in the reproductive justice movement. She co-directs the CounterAct Initiative at Arizona State University, which is creating a national model for centering multidisciplinary arts in campus-wide sexual violence prevention efforts. Zaleski was the founding artistic director of For Youth Inquiry at the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, which tours plays about sexual health and sexual violence to Chicago high school students. She creates performance-based violence prevention efforts at universities across the country. She is a storytelling consultant and uses narrative tools to help organizations and individuals amplify lived experiences.