



From the desk of DCT Executive Artistic Director Robyn Flatt

Children are born with a strong dose of curiosity. Their paths lead them to investigate and explore the world around them, to figure out relationships and ultimately, their own identity.

I believe theater provides a powerful tool during our children's transition to adulthood by spotlighting some of the serious challenges they and their peers encounter along the way. Over the past 15 years, Dallas Children's Theater has been presenting stories about teens caught in difficult situations. With examples of specific confrontations such as bullying, eating disorders and dating violence, each DCT performance is followed by a professionally led discussion. Both teens and parents are not only provided information and perspective on the issues, but also guidance on how to navigate the inherent trauma imbedded in these situations.

Today, nearly 2% of high school students identify as transgender. They face tough barriers, in part because so little is known of the realities of their situations, which is often met by a wall of confusion and rejection. By increasing our awareness and understanding of these young people as human beings, as vulnerable young people among us, we can help provide a supportive space during the search to find their true identity, and hopefully, make the journey less painful. It is up to us to help all our children, irrespective of color, creed or gender orientation, have a safe space for physical growth, an environment for creative discovery and an open door for tolerance and acceptance.

Inspired by one teen's journey, this play is not attempting to represent the spectrum of scenarios that are going on in the transgender community, but rather to pave a way to start conversation and foster awareness and understanding.