



## Playwright/Director Bruce Coleman on Bruce Coleman

Andi and I are alike in a zillion ways. As a gay man, I, too, kept a secret from my family until it became impossible to deny who I was anymore. I feared rejection from family and friends as they discovered who I am, but I took that rejection and turned it into strength. I have been pushed at by a society that wants to squeeze me into a box and force me to be a thing that goes against everything that makes me this person I am. But when all has been said and done and because of a strong belief in myself, I can finally achieve my heart's desire: to be seen, to be respected, and to be treasured. It's all Andi and I are asking for.

## Bruce Coleman on ANDI BOI

ANDI BOI is one story about one life and is not intended to represent an entire community. When commissioned to write this piece, my first decision was of course to talk to the young man who inspired the creation of our hero and get some feedback from him. It was also important to me to include the young man's mother on this journey. I was very excited to learn so much about a subject that I had only recently become personally touched by. ***I must emphasize, though, that what I have created as a playwright is not at all this young man's story. It is Andi's story and Andi's story alone.***

My next important decision was to approach the story with humor, light and a positive outlook. Kids are funny, right? Super Smart, Super Honest and Very Funny. I felt that this approach would be the most likely to reach a broad general audience. Without shying away from the tough issues that face transgender teens, which are now 2% of our young people in this country, my hope is that this play creates an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding that will help us begin a very important conversation. So as you get to know Andi, try to get to know something about yourself. And, let's talk about it.

*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.*