

New Conservatory Theatre Center • YouthAware Educational Theatre  
**The Other Side of the Closet**

By Ed Roy

Directed By Sara Staley

Stage Manager Rosie Fry

Starring Carolé Acuña, Logan Fox, James A. Martin,  
Tatiana Rivas & Vince Rodriguez

*The Other Side of the Closet* by Ed Roy has been touring to Northern California middle and high schools since 2000 to educate young people about homophobia, respect, acceptance and the California Student Safety Act (AB-537). Each performance is followed by a discussion with the cast when time permits. Our post-show discussion questions are on the back of this handout. More questions are included below to help continue the discussion in the classroom. Please monitor your students during the performance to help prevent any disruptions.

## More questions to talk and write about after the play ...

- Why do young people label each other or use derogatory words against each other?
- Does it matter if you use hurtful language around your friends as a joke or direct it at someone in particular? Does either situation make it ok?
- Where could someone in Carl's situation have gone for help in your school or community?
- How would someone like Antony be treated in your school or community?
- At one point Tara says, "Maybe it's better if we don't hang out with Carl anymore. Maybe now everything will go back to normal." What is normal? Who should decide what "normal" is in our society?
- What role did violence play in this story? What initiated violence or helped fuel it? What was another choice for Carl besides resorting to violence against Rick at the end of the play?
- Why do you think it's important to have a school environment where everyone feels safe and accepted no matter who they are or what they believe in?



[www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org)

### THE TREVOR PROJECT

If you need support, please call the  
**Trevor Lifeline: 866 488 7386**

[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)

**We'd love to receive letters about this play! Student and teacher feedback help us develop this program and secure funding for future YouthAware performances. Please mail them to the address below or email [sara@nctcsf.org](mailto:sara@nctcsf.org)**

**You may also give us your feedback by taking our online survey at:  
<http://www.nctcsf.org/other.html>**



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**25 Van Ness Ave., LL San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 694-6149 • [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)**

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# The Other Side of the Closet

## POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

- Why do you think your school brought us here to perform this play for you today? What did you learn from the performance, or what's the main thing you'll think about or the main idea you'll take away after seeing it?
- What other groups of people either now, or throughout history have been discriminated against or harassed just because of who they are or for what they believe in?
- Why do you think Paulette reacted differently than Rick, Justin and Tara when she found out that Carl was gay?
- What do you think might have happened to Carl without someone like Paulette to support him?
- What is a stereotype? Were there any stereotypes that appeared in the play?
- Why did Justin and Tara react to Carl's homosexuality the way they did? Did they come up with their own opinions about him or were they influenced by other things? Did Justin and Tara *tolerate* or *accept* Carl? What is the difference between tolerance and acceptance?
- In the play it's revealed that something happened between Rick and Carl when they were younger. Regardless of what happened between them, what should they have done to help understand and deal with that situation that they never did?
- What did you all think of the offensive language against gays that was used in *The Other Side of the Closet*? Do you hear that language on your campus? So if there is someone like Carl at your school who thinks they might be gay and they hear hateful words like "fag" or the phrase "That's so gay" being used a lot, even if the language is not directed at them specifically, how do you think that would make them feel?
- Do you think someone like Carl would feel comfortable enough to come out at your school? Why or why not? If not, what can you do to change that?
- Tara's reaction to Carl's homosexuality was mostly influenced by being worried about what her peers would think, her family and from religion. So does having certain beliefs or influences give someone the right to put others down or harass them because of who they are or for what they believe in? Why or why not?
- In the play we saw two very different gay characters in Carl and Antony. Why was Antony more comfortable being "out" than Carl?
- Carl met Antony in the Gay Straight Alliance or GSA club. Do you have a GSA at your school? Who can join the GSA? Why is it good for straight students to join the GSA?

## AB-537 - THE CA STUDENT SAFETY ACT

**Protects students from harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.**

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