

# Study Guide for Teachers

## “No Lie”

*A Collective Consciousness Production*  
*Dexter Singleton, Director*  
*Aaron Jafferis, Playwright*  
*Seth Harris, Actor*



Young  
Audiences  
Arts for  
Learning  
Connecticut

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Breaking new ground in theatre, poetry and hip-hop, No Lie examines the shifting racial dynamic of America. Performer weaves together rap and monologue in his portrayal of a cluster of city bus passengers drawn into an argument about race. The presentation rips and rhymes through a seven-sided conversation that bridges black and white, English and Spanish, youth and age, suburb and city. Live Music mixes hip hop beats and guitar riffs to create an original score.

Length: 45 minutes. Grades: 6 - 12

### OBJECTIVES

- To introduce concepts on immigration into the U.S.
- To create awareness of the issues affecting the Latino community
- To initiate discussion of issues such as, race relations, diversity, economical status.

### BEFORE THE PROGRAM

- Have you ever been in a situation where you were a minority? How did it feel? What are some of your thoughts of the experience?
- What are your thoughts on why certain groups of people live in the areas that they do?
- Why do you think people are afraid of members of different races?

### AFTER THE PROGRAM

- Discuss some of the main issues within the play. Do any of them apply to you? If so, how?
- Brainstorm with the class ways to get involved in overcoming the stereotypes that we all carry about one another.
- Have each student write a short story, poem, rap, or song about a member of a different race, class or culture. Have them write it from the other person's point of view. Discuss how it felt to write from someone else's perspective once the piece is written.

### IMAGINE...

- If you were the last passenger to get off of this bus,

## RESOURCES

### Students:

The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community

by [Mary Pipher](#) -

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by [Barbara Ehrenreich](#) -

A Country of Strangers : Blacks and Whites in America by [David K. Shipler](#)

Freedom Writers by Erin Gruwell

[http://www.adl.org/prejudice/prejudice\\_terms.asp](http://www.adl.org/prejudice/prejudice_terms.asp)

[http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=research\\_researchble9](http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=research_researchble9)

<http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1996/4/96.04.08.x.html>

### Teachers:

Freedom Writers by Erin Gruwell

Readings for Diversity and Social Justice: An Anthology on Racism, Sexism, Anti-Semitism, Heterosexism, Classism, and Ableism by [Maurianne Adams](#), [Warren J. Blumenfeld](#), [Rosie Castaneda](#), [Heather W. Hackman](#), [Madeline L. Peters](#), [Ximena Zuniga](#)

The Skin That We Speak: Thoughts on Language and Culture in the Classroom by [Lisa Delpit](#), [Joanne Kilgour Dowdy](#)

<http://www.adl.org/prejudice/closethebook.pdf>

<http://www.cloudnet.com/~edrbsass/edmulticult.htm>

[http://www.adl.org/education/brown\\_2004/brown\\_911.asp](http://www.adl.org/education/brown_2004/brown_911.asp)

[http://www.proteacher.com/cgi-bin/outside.cgi?id=14486&external=http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson204.shtml&original=http://www.proteacher.com/090154.shtml&title=Coming%20to%20America:%20%20Immigration%20Builds%20a%20Nation](http://www.proteacher.com/cgi-bin/outside.cgi?id=14486&external=http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson204.shtml&original=http://www.proteacher.com/090154.shtml&title=Coming%20to%20America:%20%20Immigration%20Builds%20a%20Nation)

## CURRICULAR LINKS

### *Connecticut State Department of Education*

#### **Source: The Arts - A Guide to K-12 Program Development**

- ✚ Goal 3: Responding in Theater  
*Students should select, observe, describe, analyze, evaluate and explain works of theater, film, television and video (content standard 7)*

#### **Source: The CT Framework – Language Arts**

- ✚ Standard 4: Information Processing  
*Students will apply evaluative criteria to the selection, interpretation, analysis, reorganization and synthesis of information from a variety of sources and formats.*
- ✚ Standard 5: Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation  
*Students will reflect upon, describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate their own and others' work.*



Think about it...

Seth Harris portrays all of the characters in “No Lie.” Can you write a short scene in which the actor portrays more than one character?

## COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS THEATRE

Under the able leadership of Dexter J. Singleton, Collective Consciousness Theatre was formed to bring to light issues of social justice and civil rights.

Dexter J. Singleton began his professional theatre career as a company member with the world-renowned Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. He is the former artistic director of the critically acclaimed Kalamazoo Youth Theatre and has worked with many schools and colleges. He currently is lead theater instructor at Regional Center for the Arts in Trumbull, CT.

Additional Collective Consciousness programs include:

- ✚ “Shakespeare – The Remix”
- ✚ “No Lie”
- ✚ “I’m Just a Superhero”
- ✚ “Harriet Tubman”
- ✚ “Struggle for Freedom”

YOUNG AUDIENCE ARTS FOR LEARNING CONNECTICUT  
3074 WHITNEY AVENUE  
BUILDING 2, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
HAMDEN, CT 06518  
203-230-8101 telephone 203-230-8131 fax  
info@vaconn.org