



COS Client Resources



COS Presenter: Sarah Jane Johnson

Topic: Date Rape, Healthy Relationships, Women's Empowerment, Cyber-Smarts

Featured Programs: "He Said-She Said" and "Devil in a Box"

DEVIL IN A BOX is a performance collage of dance, conceptual movement, and poetry that embraces the art of personal story. In this passionately honest performance the uncompromising voice of power speaks transformation and healing into the lives of both performer and audience. DEVIL IN A BOX helps men and women understand the journey from victim to survivor.



Making the personal universal, Sarah Jane Johnson shares the voyage of a woman whose adulthood is ambushed by the horrors of rape in a foreign country and experiences the loss of self-confidence that follows. Sarah Jane brings victimization, survival and courage to the stage. She is a fiery red head once more as she has been strengthened by the ability to share her words while using humor to heal.

Her one woman play describes candid conversations with Angola Prison death row inmates and the prosecution of her assailant. Sarah Jane allows her audience to discover how empowerment can emerge from the depression, anger and hopelessness felt by so many victims of rape. Sarah Jane also recounts the statistics of sexual assault in our country bringing into focus the need for awareness, communication, support and prevention education in our schools and communities. Her spoken word performance becomes a conduit for activism and taking a stand.

Today, Sarah Jane is a professional actor, writer and teacher living in New York City. She has trained as a performance artist and theatre director. Sarah Jane has worked with diverse communities across America. Students in colleges, secondary schools, teens with alcohol and drug related problems, members of community and women's centers have gained insight into their personal experiences and the potential for change in seminars and workshops led by Sarah Jane and her mentor, NEA award winning performance artist, Jose Torres Tama.

As a professional actor, Sarah Jane has worked at regional theatres across the country including the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Swine Palace Productions in Baton Rouge, The Depot Theatre in New York State, 7th Street Small Stage and Chashama Theatre, both in New York City. Sarah Jane received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder and her Master of Fine Arts degree from Louisiana State University's Professional Actor Training Program. It was at LSU that Sarah Jane was nominated for the Irene Ryan Award, a nationally recognized award for excellence in acting.

Sarah Jane believes that the art of theater and the telling of personal stories can cross all racial and cultural boundaries. The power of communication in communities, the common bond of personal sharing, and the hope that individuals can instill in one another are the basis for the reflective learning experiences that Sarah Jane offers in her work.

COS Signature Programs

Topic Area: Date Rape and Sexual Assault

Presenter: Sarah Jane Johnson

Program: A Night to Remember: A Personal Story

“A Night to Remember” is an empowering lecture where the art of personal story-telling is used as a powerful educational tool. In this passionately honest speech, the uncompromising voice of power and confidence speaks into the lives of all who hear Sarah Jane. Sarah helps men and women make the journey from victim to survivor and create compassion in those who have not experienced sexual assault directly. Making the personal universal, Sarah enables students to have a common language and experience as a backdrop for conversation around a sensitive topic.

Sarah Jane brings victimization, survival and courage to the stage. This fiery red head has been strengthened by the ability to share her words while using humor to heal. In the prosecution of her assailant, Sarah Jane discovered a source of empowerment for emerging from the depression, anger and hopelessness that she felt as a victim of rape. Sarah Jane recounts the statistics of sexual assault in our country bringing into focus the need for awareness, communication, support and prevention education on our campuses and in our communities.

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COS Signature Programs: *Reach to Wellness*

Program: He Said-She Said: The Case of Jake and Erica

Topic: Alcohol, Sexual Assault, and Responsible Decision-Making

Audience: College and High School Students

How drunk is too drunk to give valid consent to sex? Which party is responsible for communication when the lights are off and empty beer cans surround the sofa? Is it possible for one person to feel violated and the other to believe the same experience was consensual? What if neither party can remember exactly what happened—is anyone at fault then?

Jake and Erica are in the same Calculus class. They become study partners. One night they meet up at a party. The story of their hook-up is clouded by alcohol. Did someone cross the line, or did both behave irresponsibly? Join our jury, hear the case and decide for yourself!

Everyone gets a vote and a voice! We use your own community’s definition of sexual assault in deciding this challenging case study, providing clear notice of school expectations to every attendee.

The circumstances of Jake and Erica are right from a true life story which provides the living, breathing reality that students need to engage with an issue. Our skillful, entertaining presenters confront common rape myths and tear down conventional defenses around acquaintance rape as they get students talking and thinking. We achieve the difficult goal of decreasing defensiveness without being staged, raunchy or preachy!

He Said-She Said puts the spotlight on communication, responsible decision-making and clear expectations. Plus, your entire community is challenged to consider their roles as bystanders. Students constantly email us about how much they learned--in between laughs--about the consequences of leaving romantic situations to the realm of assumptions and beer goggles. We help communities move toward greater respect and empathy toward others.

Post-program single-sex break-out groups can be scheduled to address gender specific concerns and risk reduction strategies. This program has been featured as the new student orientation program at Dartmouth University, Brown University, the University of San Diego, Haverford College, the US Naval Academy, Hamilton College, Holy Cross University, Stonehill College, and many others.