



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE Z PRESENTS *THE ORANGE AVE PROJECT*** **A new theater work that documents a community's reaction to the Pulse Nightclub shootings in Orlando in June of 2016.**

***Virginia Beach*** - Zeiders American Dream Theater (The Z) in Town Center under the leadership of Artistic Director Bart Kuebler and Executive Director Terry Flint, is pleased to present the world premiere workshop production, ***The Orange Ave Project***.

The following are the true accounts of those affected by the Pulse Nightclub tragedy that occurred on June 12th, 2016 in Orlando, Florida. When tragedy affects the Orlando community, how do we respond? how do we treat ourselves and others? and how do those actions affect the world beyond a tragedy that's already shaken a generation of this nation's people to its core? These are just some of the loaded questions 80 people, over 200 hours of recorded stories and news articles, and more than a year of work hope to bring to a stage in front of you and lead us to the challenging conversations America needs to have. This is a timely discussion that continues to grip the country. Additionally, after each performance, a talkback moderated by Eric Hause will take place so the discussion can continue. ***The Orange Ave Project*** begins **May 25 through May 27, 2018** with performances **Friday and Saturday at 8pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2pm.**

After two months in Orlando, with more than 200 hours of recorded material including interviews, news articles, and personal stories...audiences will have the opportunity to see the beginning stages of an innovative devised theatre piece that shares the story of Orlando before and since Pulse.

***The Orange Ave Project*** is conceived by and written by Norfolk and Virginia Beach born artists Connor Norton, Haley Sullivan & Colin Asercion. "In the wake of tragedy, communities are quick to speak and never listen. They're quick to post 'thoughts and prayers' rather than listening to those the most affected and seeing what it is they truly need. *The Orange Ave Project* endeavors to use this unique style of theatre to bring the words, struggles, and community conversations being had in Orlando to theatre stages across the country. We want the audience to join us next to Lake Eola with the voices of so many beautiful, brave, and empowered souls as we truly hear and see them," says Connor Norton.

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***The Orange Ave Project*** will be a Workshop Production; the actors may refer to scripts, there will be fairly complete costumes, and theatrical lighting.

***The Orange Ave Project*** runs May 25-27, 2018 at 8:00pm on Friday and Saturday, and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$23 at the door or online at [TheZ.org](http://TheZ.org)

**Zeiders American Dream Theater is located at 4573 Bank Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23462**

**Zeiders American Dream Theater is funded in part by the citizens of Virginia Beach through a grant from the City of Virginia Beach Arts and Humanities Commission.**

## **ABOUT THE ORANGE AVE PROJECT**

The Orange Ave Project seeks to create a living artistic archive, stories and accounts from individuals willing to share their stories for these records; and then creating art in different, unique, and beautiful ways to immortalize these stories in art by artists across the country. This project seeks to ensure that we remember not the tragedy, but the people, their lives, the light they brought to others, and most importantly...how the world should never take the loss of these lights for granted.

## **ABOUT ZEIDERS AMERICAN DREAM THEATER**

Zeiders American Dream Theater, known as The Z, is a professional, non-profit performing arts company whose mission is to provide a wide range of highly entertaining artistic experiences to the community by fostering and introducing new works and exceptionally gifted artists in all areas of the performing arts. The Z is a community hub for celebrating creative growth and entertainment. With intimate performance spaces and unique programming that generates an exciting connection between the performer and the audience, The Z inspires audiences and performers to tap into their own creative spark, unleash their dreams, and achieve their full potential. [TheZ.org](http://TheZ.org)

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