

The Winter Bear Project

2015 Anchorage Tour



Sponsored by:

Southcentral
Foundation



Thank you Southcentral Foundation for the opportunity to work with you and your dedicated partners at Alaska Pacific University and the University of Alaska Anchorage to help change the climate of fear and hopelessness that breeds suicide.

We were honored to be the “final act” in your “Our Breath of Life” Festival.



The SCF Denaa Yeets' team with Lynx (Leah M. Hill, center) and Associate Producer Sarah Mitchell (right).
Photo by Richard Perry

The Winter Bear is a play about an Alaska Native teenager who rises above the traumas of his past to become a leader with the help of mentor Sidney Huntington.



ABOVE: Teenager Duane David (Izzy Juneby Potts) wears Sidney Huntington's parka to deliver his final speech.

LEFT: Duane (Izzy Juneby Potts) and Sidney Huntington (Allan Hayton) make a pact to choose life.
Photos by Michael Dinneen.



**Cabin Scene from Act I of
The Winter Bear.
Photo by Michael Dinneen.**

Anchorage Performances

Date	Event	Attendance
September 17	Matinee Performance for SCF group home clients	38
September 17	Evening Performance for APU & UAA students	29
September 18	Evening Public Performance	143
September 19	Evening Public Performance	145
September 20	McLaughlin Youth Center Performance	85

Total Play Attendance: 440

Publicity & Other Events



**Cast & Crew at Alaska Native
Heritage Center. Photo by
Charlie J. Johnston**

Radio Appearances

Monday, September 14

**KNBA: Interview with Frank Chythlook
Anne Hanley (Playwright) and Ben Coffroth (Victor)**

Thursday, September 17

**KNBA: Interview with Danny Preston
Anne Hanley (Playwright) and Ben Coffroth (Victor)**

Thursday, September 17

**Alaska Public Media: "Stage Talk" with Steven Hunt
Anne Hanley (Playwright), David Leslie (Wolf),
and Cynthia Jones (Raven)**

Teasers

Winter Bear cast members performed excerpts from the play in the days leading up to the show.

September 15 at APU Commons

September 16 at SCF Primary Care Center

Film Screening

"The Winter Bear 2014 Yukon-Koyukuk Tour" Documentary

September 16 at the Alaska Native Heritage Center

Discussion

Playwright Anne Hanley and Poet Stephen Bolen

September 14 at UAA/APU Consortium Library



**Director Allan Hayton speaks
about the project at Alaska
Native Heritage Center.
Photo by Charlie J. Johnston**

Evaluations

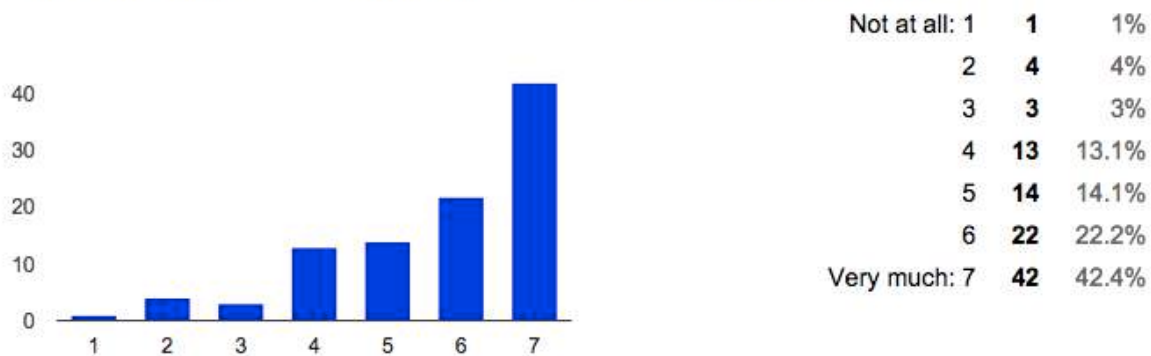
Evaluations were made available to audience members after most performances. A total of 101 were completed at the APU shows.

Respondents

- 51.5% Alaska Native
- 51% Under age 30
- 99% said they would recommend *The Winter Bear* to a friend.

Selected Responses

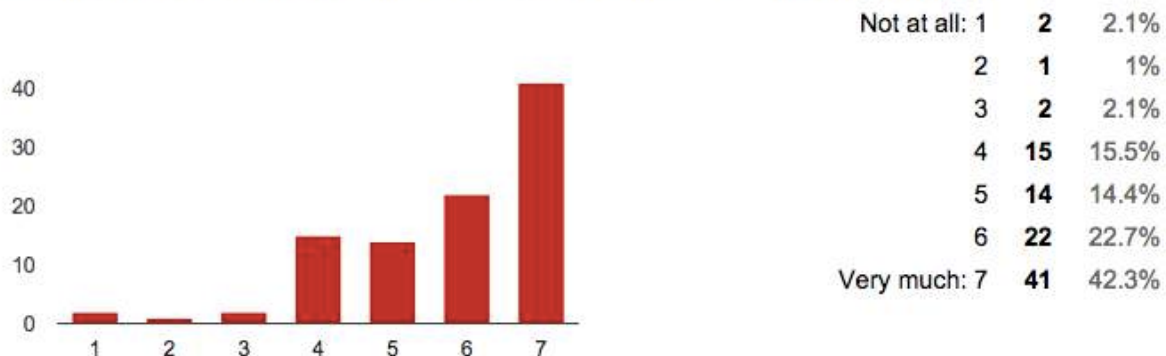
Did the play help you understand someone who was thinking about suicide?



Did the play make you feel hopeful?



Does seeing this play make you more likely to reach out to any of your friends?



Evaluations were also made available to audience members at McLaughlin Youth Center. A total of 32 youth responded.

Respondents

- 43.8 % Alaska Native
- 71.9% Male, 28.1% Female
- 90% said they would recommend *The Winter Bear* to a friend.

Selected Audience Responses

“It shows others care and want to help.”
–Audience Member,
McLaughlin Youth Center

“I believe this play not only helps with understanding suicide, but helps us better understand native culture and how Elders can help youth.”
–Audience Member,
APU Performances

“Highlights how important it is to have people who care in your life and to be present in other’s lives.”
–Audience Member,
APU Performances

“It just takes one person to help another.”
–Audience Member,
APU Performances

“There is much strength to be found in addressing tradition and discussing the dark side as well as the helpful. Acknowledgement is key.”
–Audience Member,
APU Performances

“It was funny and made me have hope to save someone’s life.”
–15-yr-old Audience
Member,
APU Performances

“Live life to the fullest.”
–Audience Member,
McLaughlin Youth Center

“10 years ago this month I thought the world would be better off without me. I...wanted to hurt as bad as my heart hurt. God said it wasn’t time. I’m healing. This [play] reminded me of that time but I’m still here to do something.”
–Audience Member,
APU Performances

Cast & Crew



2015 Anchorage Tour Cast & Creative Team

Sidney Huntington – Allan Hayton
Duane “Shadow” David – Izzy Juneby Potts
Miranda Huntington – Therisa Bennett
Victor Sam – Ben Coffroth
Raven – Cynthia Jones
Wolf – David Leslie
Lynx – Leah M. Hill
Wolverine – Tom Petrie

Playwright & Producer – Anne Hanley
Associate Producer – Sarah Mitchell
Director – Allan Hayton
Technical Director – James Bartlett
Stage Manager/Assistant Director – Kadey Ambrose

Enaa Baseé

to the dedicated partners who helped make this tour a success!

Southcentral Foundation

Katherine Gottlieb, President & CEO
Luther Klementson
Brian McCutcheon
Marisa Wang
Richard Perry
Amber Latham
Marlene Adams
Maesha Champion-Read

Alaska Pacific University

Reneé Georg
Steve Hunt
APU Student Ushers

University of Alaska Anchorage

Amanda Kookesh
Diane Hirshberg
Karla Booth
Rachel Epstein
Eric Boyer
Sarah McConnell

McLaughlin Youth Center

Lizbeth Meredith
Robert Ruddy
Magnolia Oliva-Bugayong

Alaska Humanities Forum

Nina Kemptel
Megan Zlatos

JP Jones Community Development Center

Kim Barr

The Sockeye Inn

The Winter Bear Project is a Domestic Nonprofit incorporated in Alaska.

The North Star Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, is the fiscal agent for The Winter Bear Project.

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