



AMERICAN MENTAL WELLNESS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELEPHANT ROOM PRODUCTIONS' SHOW SUPPORTS AMERICAN MENTAL WELLNESS ASSOCIATION

Opening September 12th at 6PM and running through September 17th, Elephant Room Productions will present a theatrical production titled *Suicide Stories: Gallery of the Untold* as part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival 2017. This production features plays written by 9 playwrights all touching on the topic of suicide in their own unique and healing way. You are able to walk through the playing space like an art gallery where you can hear each person's story while watching them create art before your eyes.

A generous portion of the ticket sales will be donated to The American Mental Wellness Association to continue raising awareness and prevention of Suicide.

Elephant Room Productions, a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, is a non-profit Production Company that aims to start conversations surrounding the metaphorical "elephant in the room." One such elephant is the often-taboo subject of suicide.

"We're thrilled Elephant Room Productions has chosen us to alert people that prevention and early intervention works to reduce suicides," said Sharon Engdahl, Executive Director of The American Mental Wellness Association. "Suicide is stage four of mental illnesses. We want people to get help during stage one so they don't turn to substance use abuse or don't want to go on living because of their severe pain."

The American Mental Wellness Association is a one stop hub for information on mental wellness and mental health problems, similar to what the American Cancer Society is for cancer. They encourage people to visit their website and become "Champions for prevention, early intervention, scientific research, and cures of mental health problems."

"The show runs during National Suicide Prevention Week" (September 10th through the 16th) said Kat Wilson, Marketing Director of ERP. "We chose to partner with AMWA because they stand for starting the same conversations we do. *Suicide Stories: Gallery of the Untold* will address the stories behind the statistics and bring hope out of the darkness"

Engdahl emphasized the importance of being educated on these illnesses. "Mental health problems are medical conditions. Just like other medical conditions people need to know what they can do to prevent them and what the early signs and symptoms are so they don't get so sick. Going to the family physician at first signs of any illness in most cases restores the person to wellness quickly."

Engdahl will personally be available after the final show to speak with the public. Educational resources provided by the AMWA will be available to show goers at each performance. Information about *Suicide Stories: Gallery of the Untold* can be found at www.elephantroomproductions.com. Information about the American Mental Wellness Association is available at www.AmericanMentalWellness.org.

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Executive Director -
Sharon Engdahl, B.So. Sc.

Assistant to the Executive Director -
Alexa Moody, A.A.

Our Vision -

We envision a world that through public education values prevention, early intervention, scientific research, and cures of mental health problems for the holistic health of the individual and society.

Our Mission -

We are building healthier lives free of mental health problems through educational outreach.

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