

TED Talk script draft:
(*rough* draft)

Let the theatre kids be annoying: Why Theatre Matters

“Theatre kids are SO annoying”, I’m sure you’ve heard that a million times before, maybe not given it a second thought, maybe agreed, maybe you were even the one saying it. As a “theatre kid” myself, I am the first to admit that we can be A LOT, but have you ever stopped to wonder why? Why is it that these kids are singing in the hallway? Why are they so dramatic? Why do they go SO HARD for a school play that maybe 100 people will see? It might have something to do with just how important theatre is. I believe that the importance of theatre is best explained by two core tenets: community and connection. I’ll start with defining what I mean when I say theatre, because its definitions are varied and many. Theatre refers to performances that utilize live actors, as well as the art form of these performances. At the center of these performances, and their processes to get to performance, is collaboration. Putting on a show typically involves a small army of people, including, but not limited to, a playwright, a director, a stage manager, several designers, and several actors. So, there is a community inherent to the art form. This community aspect is a major reason why theatre is so important to people, it’s a space where they can go, no matter who they are, and work towards a common goal with like-minded people. The first full blown show I was in was Aladdin at a summer theatre camp when I was seven years old. I loved being on stage and performing, but my **favorite** part was spending time with and getting to know so many new people. I was taught all of the traditions, met kids of all ages who went to different schools, and got to see just how many people it took, all working together, to put on a show. It was a totally magical experience. The human connections that theatre provides are truly like no other, every show I’ve been in, class I’ve taken, and event I’ve done has resulted in me making a friend, meeting a mentor, or encountering someone influential. This human

connection is also true for audiences. Theatre is made to entertain, yes, but it is also made to encourage empathy and understanding. Audiences are presented with characters whose experiences may be different from theirs, and given the opportunity to take a look into a different perspective. The live nature of theatre makes this all the more powerful, as the hearts of the audience will begin to beat in unison with the performers, especially in powerful moments, something impossible in film. Community and connection, people with us who understand us, isn't that all we want as humans? Thank you.