



TRUE STORIES. EMPOWERED WOMEN.

GREATER GOOD: SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

POWERUP STAGED READING

Conscience

BY JOE DiPIETRO

AUGUST 14 - 16, 2026



Supported by the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners Hillsborough County Florida

Venue sponsored by





Presents
a PowerUp Staged Reading
of

Conscience

by Joe DiPietro

CAST

ROXANNE FAY..... **Sen. Margaret Chase Smith**
STEPHEN RIORDAN.....**Sen. Joseph McCarthy**
ANNA LAUREN SPERDUTO.....**Jean Kerr**
MIKE BRINGUIER..... **William Lewis**

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR/SOUND DESIGNER **Clareann Despain**
PRODUCTION MANAGER..... **Brianna Brand**
STAGE MANAGER..... **Chloe Correa**
LIGHTING DESIGNER..... **Celeste Mannerud**
COSTUME DESIGNER.....**Ami Salliee**

CONSCIENCE is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Running Time - Act One - 56 minutes | 15 minute intermission | Act Two - 44 minutes.

EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome, friends, to our season of Greater Good!

We are delighted to gather with you to celebrate women whose determination to do the right thing changed the world. Today, we're sharing the story of Senator Margaret Chase Smith's "Declaration of Conscience," a speech which jeopardized her political career, but she knew was a necessary challenge to the unethical tactics deployed by Joseph McCarthy and his allies against political enemies.

Her persistence was a beacon of hope in a dark time.

We are surrounded by similar beacons in our community. But we also know that it can be hard to see them through the current morass. So here we are, looking together for the light that will see us through.

I hope that you, like me, find that light at Powerstories - in the shows you see, in the community you meet, and most importantly, within yourself.

Sharing our light is the best way to spread hope, so please: make a friend here - in the seat next to you, in the lobby, around a candy jar...

Keep shining, friends,

Clareann



COMMUNITY SPONSORS

**Hillsborough
County** Florida



Tampa Bay Times

**POWERS
INSPIRATION FUND**
YOUR IDEA. OUR MINI GRANT. INSPIRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER.



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MEET THE CAST OF *CONSCIENCE*



ROXANNE FAY (Senator Margaret Chase Smith) Roxanne was honored with the 2022 Berkie Award by the Berkshire Theatre Critics' Association for her portrayal of Mary Tyrone in the Bridge Street Theatre production of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (New York). Roxanne has appeared in Powerstories productions of *Irena's Vow* and *Witch Hunt*.

STEPHEN RIORDAN (Senator Joseph McCarthy) is the Artistic Director of Dead Canary Theatre in St. Petersburg. As an actor and director Stephen's work has been seen at American Stage, The Studio @ 620, The Off-Central Players, EBDT, MAD Theatre of Tampa, and many others throughout Tampa Bay. *Conscience* is Stephen's Powerstories debut. Graduate: AADA (NYC). www.deadcanary.org



ANNA LAUREN SPERDUTO (Jean Kerr) is beyond excited to be making her Powerstories debut with this production. She has participated in productions all over the Tampa area and was last seen in Gulfport Community Players' Summer One Act Festival. She is a recent graduate of Hillsborough Community College, and is preparing to transfer to Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle to pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre.

MIKE BRINGUIER (William Lewis) is delighted to return to the stage as Bill Lewis in *Conscience*. Michael's favorite stage credits include *Whose Life Is It Anyway*, *Murder by Poe*, *Spring Awakening*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He hopes *Conscience* inspires audiences to reflect on integrity, difficult choices, and the courage it takes to stand by one's convictions, and he thanks you for supporting live theater.



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Heather Krueger, Cecelia Claudio, Alex Paz, and Karla Hartley. We drove you just a little crazy, but you still love us and made us feel at home.

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM OF *CONSCIENCE*



DR. CLAREANN DESPAIN (Executive Artistic Director/Sound Designer) is an award-winning producer and director. Based in Tampa, FL, she is the Executive Artistic Director of Powerstories Theatre, Inc. Recent directing projects include *Witch Hunt*, *Irena's Vow*, *Ride the Cyclone*, and *The Underpants*.

BRIANNA "BREE" BRAND (Production Manager) is a New College Alumna with a Bachelor of Arts in Technical Theater and Literature. She has worked for the company since 2022 as a Stage Manager and since 2025 has been their Production Manager. She is proud of the work Powerstories produces and is excited to see the heights Powerstories can reach!



CHLOE CORREA (Stage Manager) is is thrilled to be a part of the Powerstories production of *Conscience*. She has most recently been apart of Powerstories' VOW Theatre Festival and stage manager for Theatre Tampa Bay's Unified Auditions. She is the Event Coordinator at the New Tampa Performing Arts Center. She would like to thank her wife, Andy Correa, Powerstories, and her family for their support of her passion.

CELESTE MANNERUD (Lighting Designer) founded Flip Flop Productions many moons ago, and since then she has enjoyed creating lighting and audio designs for all types of performance art for local and international dance, theatre, and music groups. Aside from her career that her extended family thinks is "just playing", Celeste is usually found on the road, at sea, or overseas navigating the latest Midgard journey with her husband, Andreas, and son, Coby.



AMI SALLEE (Costume Design) is delighted to work on her 3rd Powerstories costume design. Her costumes helped paint the historical atmosphere for both *Alabama Story* and *Irena's Vow*. She and her partner also brought to life Charles Dickens' *Wonderland* in an immersive audience experience this spring for *Dream Child*. She is thrilled to be a part of Powerstories and their amazing journey.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
10AM - 1PM

\$30 per session
(Discount if paid annually)

Powerstories
GIRLSTORIES LEADERSHIP
THEATRE
TRUE STORIES. CREATIVE VOICES. CONFIDENT LEADERS.



Participants explore every aspect of the theatrical process within a safe, brave, youth-voice centered environment.



DISCOVER YOUR VOICE & CREATE YOUR STORY!



ACTING &
STORYTELLING



PLAYWRITING
& DIRECTING



LEADERSHIP
SKILLS

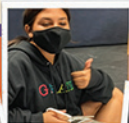


TEAMWORK &
CONFIDENCE

Monthly Workshops: September 2026 - April 2027

Grades 6th-8th • Space is Limited

Partial and Full Scholarships Available



Scholarships
Accepted Here!



POWERSTORIES.COM/GIRLSTORIES-LEADERSHIP-THEATRE

NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 1, 2026



2027 7TH ANNUAL VOICES OF WOMEN THEATRE FESTIVAL

EMPOWHER. INSPIHER. AMPLIFIHER.



Now through November 1, Powerstories is collecting submissions for the short ten-minute play category for local women playwrights of all ages for the 2027 Voices of Women Theatre Festival. There is no submission fee and no previous experience is required.

Our artistic committee will review each short play for possible inclusion in the 2027 Voices of Women Theatre Festival. Submissions will close after 50 or on November 1. Powerstories encourages work from women-identifying playwrights, playwrights of color, and other underrepresented voices.

powerstories.com/2027-voices-of-women-short-play-submissions

COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2026



TRUE STORIES. EMPOWERED WOMEN.



VOICES OF
WOMEN
THEATRE FESTIVAL
EMPOWERED. INSPIRED. AMPLIFIED.

**STUDIO
THE
SERIES**



WINNER
OUTSTANDING
POWER STORY
Voices of Women
Theatre Festival,
2021



OFFICIAL
SELECTION
Orlando Fringe
Festival, 2023



OFFICIAL
SELECTION
The Studio Project,
Constitutional
Cultural Center, 2023



OFFICIAL
SELECTION
Joshua Tree
Solo Festival
2023



OFFICIAL
SELECTION
Tampa Fringe
Festival, 2023



OFFICIAL
SELECTION
Santa Monica
Binge Fringe
Festival, 2023



OFFICIAL
SELECTION
Squeaky Wheel
Fringe Festival,
2024

**MY YEAR OF
SAYING...**

FIND YOUR YES BY SAYING...





DIRECTED BY AND DEVELOPED
WITH JESSICA LYNN JOHNSON

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY JANICE CRENETI



INAUGURAL
PRODUCTION
Think Inside the
Box Series,
2026



TRUE STORIES. EMPOWERED WOMEN.



ENCORE
SELECTION
Los Angeles
Women's Theatre
Festival, 2025

Sept 18-20, 2026 | Powerstories Studio

Returning to Powerstories, where it first connected with audiences in the 2021 Voices of Women Theatre Festival, Janice Creneti's multi-award-winning solo play, *My Year of Saying No*, comes back home for a limited run at Powerstories Studio.

On stage September 18-20 and set during the COVID-19 pandemic, *My Year of Saying No* explores impacts of the mental health crisis, sexism, and society's rigid expectations through the use of multimedia and multiple characters such as Patriarchy, Perfection, Zoom, Janice's Body and COVID. This serio-comedy tracks one woman's journey to confront all that isn't working in the world, and in her life, to build a path back to herself.

powerstories.com/my-year-of-saying-no

COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Powerstories
GIRLSTORIES LEADERSHIP
THEATRE
TRUE STORIES. CREATIVE VOICES. CONFIDENT LEADERS.

SEPTEMBER 20

10am-1pm

POWERSTORIES STUDIO

4237 W El Prado Blvd

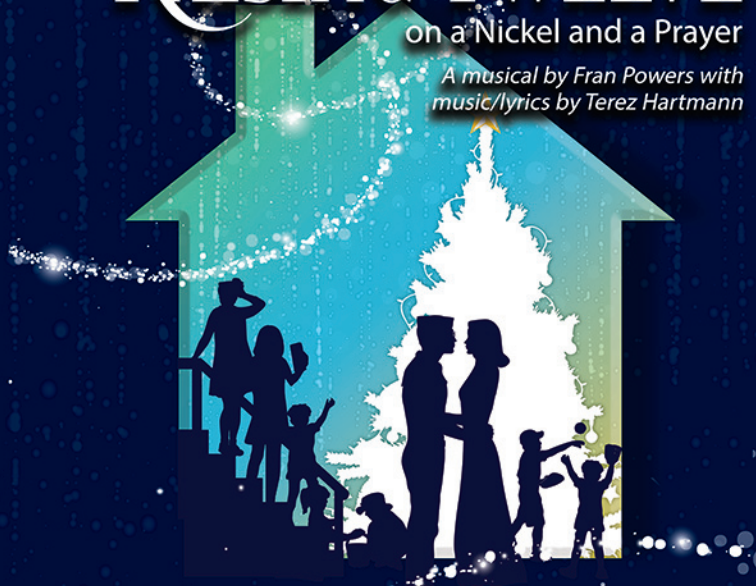
Tampa, FL 33629

CONCERT VERSION

RAISING TWELVE

on a Nickel and a Prayer

*A musical by Fran Powers with
music/lyrics by Terez Hartmann*



FREE YOUTH AUDITION WORKSHOP

This workshop will focus on the acting portion of musical theatre auditions in preparation for our upcoming show, *Raising Twelve*. Participants will learn about the audition process, how to choose a monologue, techniques to master the art of a cold reading, and receive one-on-one coaching from theatrical professionals. A selection of monologues will be provided. This event open to children ages 7-14. Space is limited.



FREE, but RSVP required: bit.ly/PSGLTAUDITIONS

COMING IN OCTOBER 2026

Learn more:

powerstories.com/the-wash

THE WASH

Written By

Kelundra Smith

Directed By

Erica Sutherlin

OCT 1 — 11
2 0 2 6

the studio

@620

Powerstories
THEATRE

TRUE STORIES. EMPOWERED WOMEN.

Hillsborough
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Healthy St. Petersburg



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Learn more:
[powerstories.com/
sponsor-season-26](https://powerstories.com/sponsor-season-26)

POWERSTORIES THEATRE 26TH SEASON

GREATER GOOD

Level of Sponsorship Recognition and Benefits

Your business will be listed under "Executive Produced By" on the front cover of your individual show's playbook.	✓				
Your business will be listed under "Co-Produced By" on the front cover of your individual show's playbook.		✓			
Your business will be listed under "Presented By" on the inside cover of your individual show's playbook.				✓	
Your business will be listed as a community sponsor in your individual show's playbook.	✓		✓	✓	✓
Your business will be listed in all print and digital promotional materials.	✓		✓	✓	✓
You will have a full-page business ad in your individual show's playbook.	✓				✓
You will have a half-page business ad in your individual show's playbook.		✓			
You will have a quarter-page business ad in your individual show's playbook.			✓	✓	
Your business will appear as a sponsor on our website with a link to your web page for the season.	✓		✓	✓	✓
Your business will be listed as a sponsor in an email newsletter to patrons.	✓		✓	✓	✓
Your business will be thanked and promoted on social media.	✓		✓	✓	✓
You will receive 12 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.	✓				✓
You will receive 10 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.		✓			
You will receive 8 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.			✓	✓	
You will receive 4 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.				✓	
You will receive 2 sponsor tickets to your individual sponsored show.				✓	✓



ENJOY POWER PERKS

PowerPerks

PowerPerks is our way of giving back to the monthly donors who give so much to Powerstories.

Because of you, Powerstories can keep creating theatre that lifts voices and brings people together. Your monthly support gives our artists the space, time, and tools they need to build work that matters. You help cover the essentials that carry each production from the first rehearsal to the final cue. Your steady commitment lets us plan ahead, take creative risks, and bring new stories to the stage with confidence. You make the magic possible, and we celebrate you for it.

Because of you, our community programs stay strong and accessible. Your support opens doors for young girls in Girlstories Leadership Theatre, nurtures new storytellers in Voices of Women, and welcomes audiences who might not otherwise experience live theatre through our STAGE (Sponsored Tickets for Access, Gathering & Equity) Initiative. You help keep Powerstories a place where truth is spoken, shared, and cherished.

To honor that generosity, you are automatically enrolled in PowerPerks when you sign up as a recurring monthly donor through Givebutter. PowerPerks gives you exclusive benefits throughout the year, including ticket savings, special dress previews, and early access to select events. As a PowerPerk monthly donor, you will always receive meaningful benefits in appreciation for your kindness. It is our way of celebrating you and the difference you make for us every single month.

Learn more:
powerstories.com/powerperks

MISSION STATEMENT

Staging true stories of women and girls to open minds and hearts and inspire action worldwide.

Powerstories.com