

# Village Theatre **KIDSTAGE**

## Production Preview Guide for:

### *Jasper in Deadland*

Music and Lyrics by: Ryan Scott Oliver

Book by: Hunter Foster

July 16-25, 2021 at the Everett Performing Arts Center, 2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett.

*The show will run approximately two hours including a 15-minute intermission.*

### **Parent/Guardian Note**

Only parents/guardians are qualified to determine what is appropriate for their children. A copy of the script are available at the Everett Performing Box Office Box Office to help you make the decision that is right for you and your family.

### **The Program and Process**

The KIDSTAGE Summer Independent program is a professionally mentored program unique to Village The Summer Independent program is the pinnacle experience for KIDSTAGE students. It provides autonomy, resources, and mentorship to select, mount, and produce their own full-scale show from start to finish. Students take on every aspect of production, from performing, directing, and stage management, to designing and building sets, creating costumes, running sound and lights, marketing, production management, and more.

The Summer Independent program is focused on the professional development of the production team. The production process by nature offers many opportunities to build skills that allow students to become independent—and potentially professional—artists in their respective disciplines. Each member of the production team is assigned a professional in the field to mentor, support the process and provide feedback and suggestions on how to overcome challenges to achieve a successful production. Performers' learning opportunities in this program differ from other KIDSTAGE production programs, where the focus is on the actor's educational development. Performers in Summer Independent are most successful if they are self-directed and self-disciplined and, most importantly, are patient with the production team as they develop new skills.

### **Synopsis**

*“When the living world seems like too much, Jasper and his best friend Agnes always have each other. Dealing with pressures from school and their parents leaves them searching for understanding and love. When Jasper wakes up one morning and cannot find Agnes, an adventure to reunite begins with a dive into the swirling vortex of another land in the waters of*

*Deadland. On his adventure, Jasper explores the underworld, meets interesting and dangerous people, and faces the demons within himself.”*

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## **Script Content Details**

*Please note: the following contains plot spoilers.*

**Violence:** Most of the play takes place in the mystical underworld called Deadland, with numerous discussions and references of death being made throughout the show. In one scene, characters describe to Cerberus how they died. Another character is modeled as a reimagining of Lucifer. A featured ensemble character threatens to eat the main protagonist’s heart out. The two lead characters also have a moment of contemplation around a “memory suicide” while in Elysium.

**Language:** The words “damn,” “ass,” “titties,” and “shit” are used a couple of times throughout the show.

**Sexual Content:** There are several moments throughout the show where characters are seen kissing, both to share their love and affection as well as for laughs. It is implied that the two lead characters sleep together at the beginning of the show. Later in the show, the main protagonist discusses a time when another protagonist once swam naked in high school. One character implies that another character asked her to lift up her shirt. A featured ensemble character mentions a lap dance happening in a club. An antagonist references the “titties” of a female-identifying character.

**Drug/Alcohol Use:** Mild references of drugs throughout the play. A scene takes place in a hookah lounge. The main protagonist’s father is addicted to pills and he references his father’s addiction and guilt throughout the show. Another protagonist is seen offering the male protagonist a cigarette.

**Other:** The play deals with topics of life, death, and the meaning of existence. The topics of nihilism, suicide, drug addiction, anxiety, depression, self-worth, and trusting one’s self are all discussed throughout the musical.