

McCarter THEATRE CENTER



University
Health
Services



present



A SPECIAL INVITATION TO EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A unique collaboration with Princeton University Health Services, The 24 Hour Plays®, and Innovations in Socially Distant Performance at the Lewis Center for the Arts.

This free-to-access interactive website brings to life true stories submitted by resilient people from all across the world living with mental health challenges. They have things to say about struggle and pain, and also triumph and joy.

The Backdrop

When Zack had his first psychotic break and was diagnosed with bipolar in 2017, he was just finishing his PhD at Stanford University — and his world imploded. *Would mental illness dictate his whole life? Would everything change?*

One of the hardest parts about those early days was the absence of relatable, lived experiences. Zack and his then-girlfriend Elisa decided to create a play based on true stories to disrupt the stigma around mental illness. It resulted in a series of vignettes they called *The Manic Monologues*. The play was performed live in 2019.

McCarter planned a professional staged reading of the play in 2020. When COVID halted live events, the project was re-conceived for our digital stage.

The Virtual Experience

Take a journey through the minds and voices of people who bravely share the way mental illness has affected their lives, performed by a celebrated cast of actors – enhanced by interactive design and technology.

Visitors will find a virtual resource guide with links to research, recommended books, articles, help and hotlines, advocacy initiatives and the full script of monologues.

The Creative Team

The experience is conceived and directed by [Elena Araoz](#); [Jared Mezzochi](#) is the Multimedia and Visual Web Designer; [Nathan Leigh](#) did Sound Design and Original Composition; and [Jackie Liu](#) is the Interaction Design and Web Developer.

EXPERIENCE The Manic Monologues for FREE NOW:
[MCCARTER.ORG/MANICMONOLOGUES](https://mccarter.org/manicmonologues)

The site and virtual experience is completely anonymous.
No registration is required and no personal data is captured.

Feel free to share this with friends, family, neighbors, classrooms and your community!

Questions? Email askus@mccarter.org

mccarter.org/manicmonologues