

**THE CHRISTIE PITS RIOT:  
TESTIMONIALS FROM STUDENTS, TEACHERS & EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS**

**“I went with 3 Grade 10 History classes and their teachers to the Christie Pits Riot Commemoration today. The production was excellent, and it made an impact on our students. They will continue to reflect on the past and present and discuss how they can challenge racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia in our communities.”**

*Principal, Richview CI*

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**“Huge thanks to you and all who made the Christie Pits play happen. It was amazing! It was appreciated and enjoyed by all the students. The production really brought the story to life in poignant and thoughtful ways.”**

*Teacher, Alpha II Alternative*

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**“I brought two of my classes to your recent re-enactment of the events of the Christie Pits Riots. I want to let you know that my students really enjoyed the production! We weren't sure entirely what to expect, but they were pleasantly surprised and engaged with the performance. Thank you for inviting us and I wish you all the best in your future projects.”**

*Teacher, John Polanyi CI*

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**“I just wanted to thank you and your committee for the opportunity to bring our students to Christie Pits on Friday. It was truly an amazing experience. The students were engaged and made personal connections to an incident of antisemitism in their own school.”**

Equity Resource teacher, Peel District School Board

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**“The show was amazing!! My mom and I thought it was incredibly well done. I hope every school gets a chance to see it.”**

Student teacher

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**“My students loved the play. We ended up walking to Christie afterwards to debrief. Very grateful!”**

*Curriculum Leader, Harbord CI*

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**“I wanted to say a big thank you to the Jewish & Italian Heritage Committees for putting on a phenomenal production. Students and teachers learned a lot and definitely a part of Toronto's history that everyone should know. Being Greek, I knew about the 1918 Riots against the Greeks on Yonge Street but was not familiar with Christie Pits. As the years pass by, we definitely need to continue to learn and study these historical events, so they do not happen again.”**

*Teacher, Cosburn MS*

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**“The performance was beautiful and our students really learned something.”**

*Teacher, Elia MS*

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**“I plan on bringing 3 of my grandchildren who are 14 and 16 on Tuesday. They are at school in North York and wish to have the opportunity to see the play. Their cousins attend Harbour Collegiate and talked about the play. Wonderful way to teach!”**

*Community member*

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**“The principal from Richview, Lucie, phoned me personally before the performance to confirm the location change. She was so excited to see the show “I’m Italian,”she told me, “this story never gets told!”**

*Drew Carnwath, playwright, The Christie Pits Riot*

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**“I truly enjoyed the production and am grateful that I went yesterday.”**

*Rabbi Robyn - Beth Tzedec Synagogue*

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**“On Tuesday, May 30th, the grade eights from Glen Shields Public school ventured to the West side of Downtown Toronto to witness a performance in Christie Pits. Many of the students say how it was an eye-opening performance that elaborated on the book that we read. The performance was captivating. The actors worked hard and demonstrated the story very well with their emotions, expressions and the way they said their words. It helped put into perspective the hard and troubling times back in the day. From an actor myself, it was very inspiring to know that actors out there were using their talents and skills to educate young people. The performance opened many of our eyes and helped us learn of the rough times that immigrants had to face. It was also interesting how they made it from different perspectives. It was like witnessing a battle; Canadians vs. Immigrants. It was important because as we learned the history and mistakes made from our founding people, so that we as future leaders understand how to make our world a better and inclusive place. The performance was an amazing field trip that made us understand that in a moment in history there was no inclusivity and many could not live the luxurious life that many of us live now. We learned that for immigrants, it was hard to get jobs and maintain them. Many were struggling to put food on the table, keep their jobs and raise their children. It helped us learn not to take what we have currently for granted and to value what we have. The performance taught us many lessons from not making the same mistakes that were made before to valuing what we have. It was a joy and amazing performance to experience!”**

*Gr 8 student, Glen Shields PS, York District School Board*

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**“I attended the play with some of our grade 10 classes a few weeks ago. It was a wonderful experience. It is a great way to tell the story and was very well performed. The kids really enjoyed it. It’s great that you are promoting it.”**

*Principal, Bloor CI*