

From The Storyteller

The APTP ensemble member whose story was turned into *God's Work* shares some of her feelings about the experience.

Other than my lawyers and my family, APTP's ensemble members and directors were the first people with whom I shared my story. In the spring of my junior year, we premiered *God's Work*. As an ensemble member, I was involved in the process of creating the show, and I performed in it (I didn't play myself; we never do that at APTP).

By allowing APTP to turn my story into art, I wanted to inspire audience members to work towards creating a world where children don't go to sleep beaten and hungry. I wanted teachers to see *God's Work*, so that children who go to school with bruised up and malnourished bodies won't be ignored. I wanted to inspire people to choose to become foster parents. I wanted child abusers to see the play and (though I want to be realistic about the responses they might have) I wanted them to see the impact their actions have on people's lives. I wanted parents to be inspired by the incredible gentleness of my adoptive parents' healing abilities. I wanted the world to see me, all of me. My scars. My pain. My courage. My power. I wanted people to see this and realize the incredible resilience we all hold to come out of traumatic situations and still possess the desire and ability to thrive: to become a loving daughter, to be a good student, to be a mentor, to join a theater company, to become an ethnographer, to become a leader, to work for a better world, to go to college.



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