

About Kenny Carnes

“Carnes’ playwriting has an enormous capacity to heal and transform us.”

-Brown University



As an accomplished actor, storyteller, and performance poet, Kenny Carnes stages a cast of characters in an array of original performances to create thought provoking art-based dialogues built upon topical events. Described as a “Master of the Monologue,” his original stage works act as sharp instruments to examine the human condition as he shape-shifts through a portfolio of archetypal characters. Carnes has been called, “...a powerful messenger” by *NY-Theater.com* and has been praised for his spoken word poetry designed to unite our diversities, bridge our polarities, and awaken our hearts. Appearing on notable stages such as the Woodstock Historic Theatre, The Carnival Center for the Arts, The Admiral Theatre, and St. Michael’s Playhouse, his performances touch thousands each year. “His provocative play writing has an enormous capacity to heal and transform us,” says Brown University, and *The Providence Journal-Bulletin* has deemed him “the EMINEM of Theater.” Since training at the American Conservatory Theater (1999), his theater-for-thought creations have gone on to educate, enlighten, and heighten critical awareness issues at universities, theater companies, performing arts centers, and other organizations. Kenny has received praise for his radio show “Voices of Freedom” on WPRO News Talk 630, has appeared on National Public Radio, and has worked as creative talent for Twentieth Century Fox, NBC-Television, Citadel Communications, Clear Channel, and PBS Television. His leadership experience includes nearly ten years as an army officer, corporate consultant, and small business owner. Holding a Master of Arts in Holistic Counseling (*Salve Regina University, 2003*) with a thesis concentration on Psychodrama/Drama Therapy, Kenny Carnes continues to inspire and facilitate positive behavior change through his performance art, residency programs, and workshops.

theater - spoken word - lectures - workshops - outreach

“Carnes’ rhymes intensify and stylize the language like good poetry does, allowing complex observations and feelings we might otherwise resist to pierce us like darts.”

-The Phoenix, Arts & Entertainment Section

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About “Pieces of War”

A Performance by Kenny Carnes

Written largely in rhapsodic verse, *Pieces of War* is a thirty, forty-five, or sixty minute one-man show that delivers a rapid-fire cadence of rhyme and rhythm to weave a portfolio of stories from three generations of American heroes. In this program, his second in a series of solo performances examining violence, Carnes captures the narratives of American soldiers from WWII, Vietnam, and contemporary conflicts.—A son returns home from Iraq. His grandfather recalls his victories at Normandy. Memories of September 11th. A father becomes lost in his voiceless shame trying to forget Vietnam.—Based on interviews, observations, and personal experience, *Pieces of War* seeks resolution through conflict, captures understanding through contemplation, and unites audiences in a common dialogue surrounding the universal journey of the hero in us all. *March beside an “army of one.” Honor the fallen. Heal the wounded. And artfully confront the violence.*

Generating an Arts-based Dialogue

Pieces of War evokes questions, discussion, and contemplation without propagating absolutes. Carnes uses provocative performance in the way the ancient Greeks used theatre—as a precursor to rich dialogue. The performer joins your post-panel discussion of community and/or campus leaders or veterans, or facilitates talkbacks himself. Post-show events have enriched university symposiums, benefited victims of war, and served as a gateway to collective healing and understanding.

Wellness Workshop for Veterans

War veterans often experience a silent and solemn readjustment process upon their return home from the war front. This workshop provides a unique opportunity to reestablish oneself back into the fabric of family, work, and community. Half day, full day, or three day retreats provide veterans, soldiers, and family members an alternative to the traditional combat decompression process. Designed by veterans, for veterans, this effective training and experiential retreat facilitates an improved ability to manage life, career, and family roles. The workshop aims to strengthen coping skills, enrich wellness, and build hope during the soldier’s post-war recovery process.

Additional Programs

“Last Words”

Last Words, by Kenny Carnes, is a sixty minute solo-play showcasing the hearts and minds of America’s executed. This anthology is designed to humanize and sensitize us to the cycle of violence while provoking thought. *Last Words* tells the stories of death row inmates, their friends, families, wardens, families of murder victims, and politicians. A synthesized story is built upon a series of monologues—each punctuated by actual last word testimonies of executed inmates projected on a viewing screen. *Last Words* captivates, enlightens, and shocks while revealing human faces emerging from the most unlikely of places. The audience becomes the final jury—challenged to question an array of social issues while the main character, Inmate Albert L. Peoples, addresses you during his final appeal. At the conclusion, the audience debates Peoples’ fate on the path to exploring justice, peace, and equality before voting on the final outcome.

“Rants, Riots & Rhyme”

Rants, Riots & Rhyme, by Kenny Carnes, delivers a storytelling experience highlighting violent behaviors affecting American life. Through spoken word and monologues, this one-man show fights its way toward a deeper understanding of non-violence and an authentic practice of peace. A multitude of characters manifest themselves on stage in this part-scripted/part-free style rhyming performance. Carnes stages a living, breathing scrapbook of personal story, provocative poetry, and interactivity integrated with statistical data on domestic abuse. *Rants, Riots & Rhyme* unites our purpose in tolerance and awakens us to an ignorance perpetuating the cycle of violence. Kenny Carnes customizes a 30 or 45 minute show tailored around your event.

www.kennycarnes.com

