



**Indiana**  
Thespians



**THE YOUNG ARE AT THE GATES**  
HIGH SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM

# Content Guide

Indiana Thespians openly welcomes everyone to join us for the all-state show, regardless of age or grade. We also understand that various elements can impact individual audience members in different ways. Rather than providing a "rating" for this show, we hope that the following information can help you make informed choices for your students and school based on your personal needs and preferences. Topics for discussion are included in case teachers/chaperones want to discuss these topics with their students before or after the show, such as racism, immigration, misogyny, and respect or defiance of authority.

## Topics for Discussion

- Racism is a prevalent theme throughout the show, including the treatment of people of color and Black women within the suffrage movement.
- One character is an immigrant, addressing the topics of citizenship and immigrants within the suffrage movement.
- The treatment of women during this time period includes disrespect, harsh language, contempt, and mockery.
- Authority figures in the show often look down on the younger or female characters.

## Drugs/Alcohol

- Many characters repeatedly drink alcohol socially throughout the show. No characters are ever drunk or inebriated on stage.
- A scene takes place in a bar.
- One character smokes cigarettes.

## Sunday Alternates

The following changes will be implemented for Sunday's matinee performance to make the show suitable for more audiences

- All uses of the word "Bitch" are replaced with "Witch"
- The word "fornicate" is changed to "flirt"
- The word "slut" is changed to "tramp"

## Violence/Death

- Violence towards women is pantomimed during a protest. No physical contact between actors is shown on stage.
- Three characters are force fed using restraints and tubes. The restraints, instruments and food used are pantomimed, not physical props.
- A character dies on stage. No blood is shown, but may be disturbing to young viewers.
- A funeral is depicted with an actual coffin. The dead body is not seen.

## Sensory Elements

- Actors enter through the audience, but do not touch audience members.
- Fake fire is used as a prop.
- No loud bangs or gunshots.
- No theatrical haze or smoke.

## Romance

- A male character flirts with a female character when they meet for the first time, singing a song about the possibility of marriage.
- Two couples hold hands and embrace at various points throughout the show. One couple is heterosexual, and the other is homosexual.
- A woman claims she married her husband because he let her kiss other people and "fornicate freely"
- No kissing or physical intimacy.

## Language

- Three uses of "hell"
- Six uses of "damn"
- Thirty-seven uses of "Bitch," primarily during the song "Great American Bitch" in act 1.
- "Slut" "shrew" and "crazy hag" are all used to demean women

## Know Before You Go:

*Suffs the Musical* is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one 15 minute intermission

This show is recommended for ages 11 and up