

# DANIEL PACKARD

## The Teenage Survival Guide

TEACHER'S STUDY GUIDE—LINKED TO IRP'S

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Expect a very fun and funny event. Because Daniel connects with and engages the students with playful and funny spontaneity, expect some weirdness and occasional ridiculousness.

With a humorous, interactive approach, Daniel gets us thinking about topics such as bullying, peer pressure, and homophobia. By taking real-life examples from the audience, combined with his skill as a stand-up comic, Daniel uses his hip, playful style to get us to consider ideas we might otherwise ignore. *Teenage Survival Guide* has been developed in consultation with educators to provide a relevant, current, and accessible event that deals with issues that are important to today's young people.



### ABOUT DANIEL

Daniel Packard is an internationally touring comedian who currently resides in NYC. In 2007, Daniel was named *Speaker of the Year* by the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities for his inspiring work with young audiences (Previous winners include, George Stroumbouloulous, Gloria Steinem and Jean Chretien). He has performed for audiences in England, Ireland, Australia,

New Zealand, Asia, the US, and Canada. He has twice been selected as one of the top acts at two different Fringe festivals (Vancouver and San Francisco), has been the headline act at both the Vancouver International Comedy Festival and the Vancouver Jewish Festival, and in 2004 was awarded the Helming Prize for Creative Innovation.

Over the course of his career,

Daniel has found that the best part of being a stand-up comedian isn't just that he gets to tour the globe getting paid to make people laugh (although that *is* pretty cool), but that he has become a better person from the experience. As a result of becoming a comedian, Daniel has found that he has become a more confident, thoughtful, unrepressed, spontaneous, and—most of all— a happy person.

#### THEMES:

- Bullying
- Communication
- Cyber-bullying
- Dating
- Emotions
- Gender Politics
- Homophobia
- Peer pressure
- Popular Culture
- Relationships
- Self-esteem
- Social Studies



## GRADE 8-12 ACTIVITY IN 2 PARTS: PRE-SHOW & POST-SHOW

IRP LINK - DRAMA

- demonstrate trust through collaborative drama
- demonstrate the unique ability of drama to unify a diverse group
- demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of others and their various perspectives
- make choices among a variety of ways to express thoughts, feelings, and beliefs
- Develop dramatic work that explores solutions to common problems (e.g., loneliness, peer pressure) and promotes acceptance of individual differences.

### Part 1 - Get it off your chest! (20-30min)

Before the show give small 3 blank index cards or small pieces of paper to each student and have them print clearly on each card one current personal difficulty related to one or more of the show themes listed on this guide. Encourage honesty and instruct that there are NO NAMES on the cards – they must be anonymous. Collect the cards and keep them for Part 2 after the show.

### Part 2 - Through the eyes of a comic! (45-60min)

After the show put all the cards from Part 1 in a hat. All sit in a **circle** (to encourage connectedness). A random student begins by picking a card out of the hat and reads it out loud to the group, (option to exchange if it is their own). Everyone's job then is to act as stand-up comics who are trying to come with material for a comedy routine so they must discuss how to view the difficulty in a funny way – they must ask – what could be funny about this problem?

No ideas are wrong - **NOTE:** The "difficulty" needs to be given respect. **After seeing Daniel's performance they will no doubt be inspired on how to achieve this.** The benefit no one is put on the spot or identified with their own issue yet they may discover the empathy of others or feel supported when they hear it from other P.O.V's.

**PART 3 OPTIONAL** - Have some eager students try out a 2 minute comedy stand-up routine with some of the group's generated ideas.

## HOSTING DANIEL AT YOUR SCHOOL

**Sound** One voice mic, preferably wireless; levels set to project voice crisply (low bass) and relatively loudly.

**Lighting** Basic lighting for a stationary solo performance

**Props** Chair or stool, bottled water

**Stage** Chair center stage as close to students as possible.

**Seating** Audience should be as close to the stage as possible – as close as 6 feet  
Please have a student or a teacher introduce Daniel to begin the show.

