

The role of theatre in addressing social issues &
bolstering adolescent self-esteem

Always Picked Last

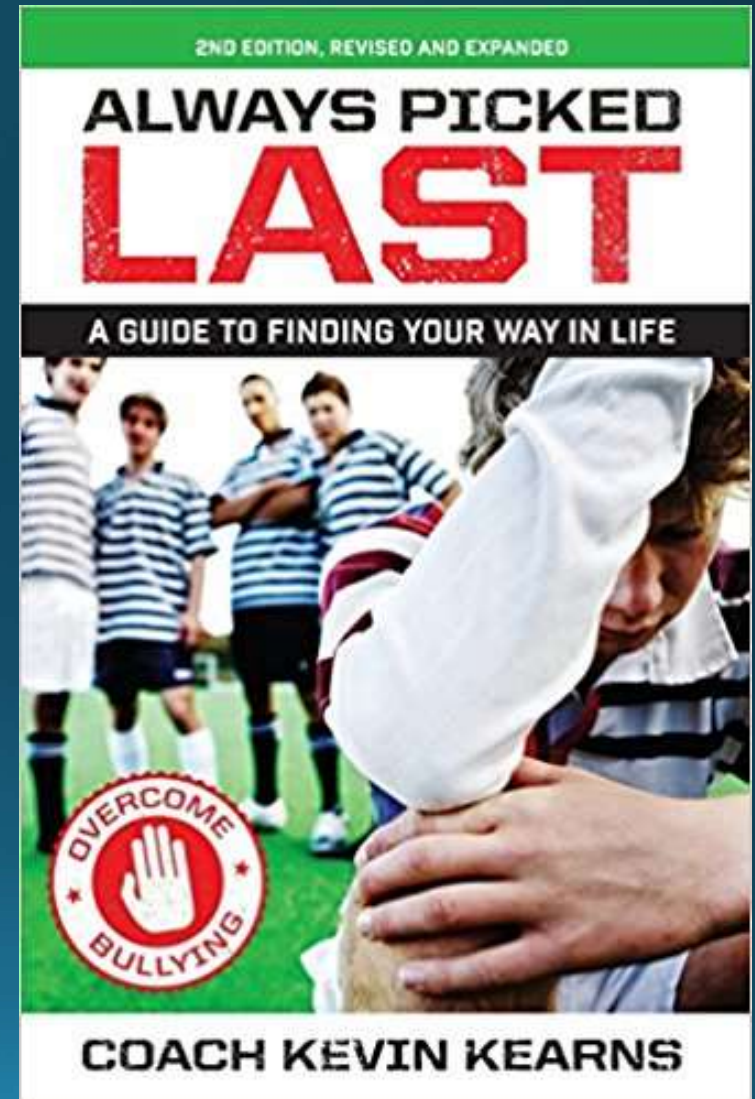
The Main Players

- **Riverfront Children's Center** – Over 100 children attend this family centered child care in Groton, Connecticut
- **Emerson Theater Collaborative** - Serving youth, community and artists with an emphasis on diversity.
- **The Light House Transition Academy** – Transition services for teens and adults on the Autism Spectrum



The Plot

- Coach Kevin Kerns' memoir recalls his childhood struggles with neighborhood bullies.
- Kerns' uncle enrolled him in martial arts classes that helped build confidence and athleticism.
- When Kerns left the neighborhood his experiences had transformed him. He is now a personal trainer and motivational speaker.



A few photos....



Riverfront kids and staff working on the set



The cast rehearses a scene with Kevin



Kevin Kearns and Nick who plays "young Kevin"

A few more...



Ciara rehearses her poem



Emerson Theater
Collaborative meets with
Riverfront and The Light
House



Lisa (Playwright) and
Kevin Kearns (Author) at
The Light House
Transition Academy

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

~Oscar Wilde

Benefits of Drama in Developing Social Skills

- Improves socioemotional functioning and reduces stress in autistic children
- Improves facial recognition skills and theory of mind skills



Benefits Continued....

- Improves peer modeling skills
- Reduces anxiety in social situations



Thank you!

