



## ROBERT G. CASSILLY

Harford County Executive

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### **Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy presents "Addicted" on April 22 & May 12**

BEL AIR, Md., (April 20, 2023) - The Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy will soon present 2 screenings of the original play "Addicted," written and directed by school psychologist Christle Henzel. "Addicted" will be shown this year as a screening on Saturday, April 22 at Mt. Zion Church, 1643 E. Churchville Road in Bel Air and on May 12 at North Harford High School, 211 Pylesville Road in Pylesville. Both screenings will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

"Addicted" tells the story of three young adults who are struggling with a variety of addictions including alcohol, heroin, and prescription pain pills. The play reveals not only the devastating impact on the individual, but also on one's friends and family members.

"Addicted" captures the reality of drug and alcohol abuse, addiction, and the turmoil that everyone endures as a result. It attempts to break down stigmas, educate youth and their parents, and helps to build compassion and empathy for those struggling with drug and alcohol abuse.

"It is great to support a production that is able to reach our young people in ways to which they can relate," Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly said.

This powerful drama has engaged audiences since 2015, been seen by over 6,000 people, and was named a resource in the national SAFE community Public Awareness Guide. In 2018 Harford County's Office of Drug and Control policy won the National Association of Counties' Best in Category Award in the Arts, Cultural, and Historic Preservation category for using the play to help raise awareness, engage stakeholders, and combat stigma.

"The topic of Addiction is very close to my heart. When I was 21 years old, my brother Jason took his own life at the age of 19. It was completely unexpected, and it devastated our family," Christle Henzel said. "Jason struggled with drug addiction throughout most of his life, and it was incredibly challenging for our family. After he died, I knew that I wanted to create something positive in the midst of tragedy. I


also knew that there was transformative power through the art of storytelling, so I wrote the play Addicted in honor of my brother, Jason.” When asked why to have Addicted on screen, Ms. Henzel said, “Screening allows us to reach even more audiences, and hopefully prevent someone from going down the path of addiction and or encourage someone who is struggling to get help. I want audience members to know that they are not alone, and that there is help available if they are struggling.”

“We are grateful for our partnership with Ms. Henzel, North Harford High School and Mt. Zion Church for making these screenings possible,” Tara Lathrop, Administrator for the Office of Drug Control Policy said. “Addicted is a great tool to educate oneself on substance use and used as a guide to help start the conversation about drugs and alcohol.”

The screenings of “Addicted” are open to the public; however, parental discretion is advised due to the play’s subject matter, which may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13.

For more information about the screening please contact the Office of Drug Control Policy at 410-638-3333 or at [odcp@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:odcp@harfordcountymd.gov).

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