
About The Education Trust

The Education Trust promotes high academic achievement for all students at all levels—prekindergarten through college. We work alongside parents, educators, policymakers, and community and business leaders across the country in transforming schools and colleges into institutions that serve all students well. Lessons learned in these efforts, together with unflinching data analyses, shape our state and national policy agendas. Our goal is to close the gaps in opportunity and achievement that consign far too many young people—especially those who are black, Latino, American Indian, or from low-income families—to lives on the margins of the American mainstream.

What We Do

The Education Trust advances its mission along several fronts, from raising its voice in national and state policy debates to helping teachers improve instruction in their classrooms. Regardless of the setting, our work maintains a relentless focus on improving the education of all students, particularly those the system too often has neglected.

Stay in touch!

Subscribe to our weekly reform-minded Equity news blast, Equity Express! E-mail equityexpress@edtrust.org.

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The Education Trust

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DILATED **PUPILS** and the Not-So-Soft Bigotry of a Nation

BY BROOKE HAYCOCK

“Few tragedies can be more extensive than the stunting of life, few injustices deeper than the denial of an opportunity to strive or even to hope, by a limit imposed from without, but falsely identified as lying within.”

—Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*

STAGING EQUITY IN THE REFORM ARENA

The Education Trust brings you theater for the education-reform movement. Provocative, edgy, and brutally honest, playwright-activist Brooke Haycock’s one-woman documentary dramas strip bare some of the most emotionally charged issues we face in American education today. Designed for educators, parents, policymakers, and advocates, Brooke’s performances spark tough conversations about equity in schools.

Bring an Education Trust production to your school, organization, district, or state to spur dialogue and action on gap-closing issues in your community.

Contact Brooke at bhaycock@edtrust.org or call 202/293-1217 ext. 330.

For data on issues this performance addresses, as well as resources and assistance for schools and districts, visit www.edtrust.org.

It’s Being Done, a book by Ed Trust Senior Writer Karin Chenoweth, is available for purchase on amazon.com.

Dilated Pupils and the Not-So-Soft Bigotry of a Nation takes audiences on a whirlwind tour through the school doors, past the metal detectors, and straight into the lives of three high school students. Told from the perspectives of students and the adults in their lives, *Dilated Pupils* dares audiences to confront the stories of young people hobbled by low expectations.

ABOUT BROOKE HAYCOCK

Playwright-activist Brooke Haycock has been crafting and performing issue-focused theater with The Education Trust for nearly a decade. A former high school dropout from an urban public school system, Brooke now spends most of her time back in schools with students and educators, listening to their experiences of equity in American public education. Inspired by the work of Studs Terkel and Anna Deavere Smith, Brooke mixes interview with performance to produce incisive chronicles of opportunity, achievement, and equity in American public education.

Playwright’s Note

The characters in *Dilated Pupils* are based on young people I worked with as a student organizer in Washington, D.C. I tell their stories as I heard them, with deep respect for their language, voices, and perceptions. Their anger and their experiences—while at times hard to hear—are raw and real, and their views are not as uncommon as we might like to believe.

OTHER DOCUMENTARY DRAMAS FROM THE EDUCATION TRUST

All Education Trust documentary theater productions begin as conversations. Brooke spends hundreds of hours in schools across the country talking individually with students, teachers, administrators, and school counselors about issues of race, class, opportunity, and achievement. She then weaves these voices into often-raw, richly honest dramatizations that help stimulate uncomfortable but necessary discussions in schools and communities.

Buzz: Defying Expectations and Other Lessons From the Bumble Bee. Those who question whether all students can soar academically need to hear the story of the aerodynamicist and the bumble bee. *Buzz* is a testimony to hope, hard work, and high achievement in America’s high-poverty, high-minority high schools. This dynamic performance chronicles the educational struggles and ultimate triumphs of schools, educators, and students who refuse to settle for anything short of real success.

Catalyst is an unflinching portrayal of the power of teachers to change students’ lives. Following two young men, Carl and Isaiah, *Catalyst* takes on the tough questions of student engagement, bringing audiences face to face with some of the most devastating—and inspiring—images of student transformation.

Six Degrees of Preparation offers a powerful and intimate opportunity to examine teacher preparation, support, and retention. Based on more than 300 interviews with teachers, teacher candidates, teacher educators, teacher leaders, and students, *Six Degrees* exposes damaging beliefs and practices in school districts and schools of education, vividly portraying their impact on new teachers and the students they serve. One woman, 15 characters, 45 minutes.