

*A dark (dark) comedy solo play about resilience and trauma recovery*



DIANA VARCO  
CREATIVE WORKS

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# ABOUT

PERFORMANCE | PUBLIC SPEAKING | WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS



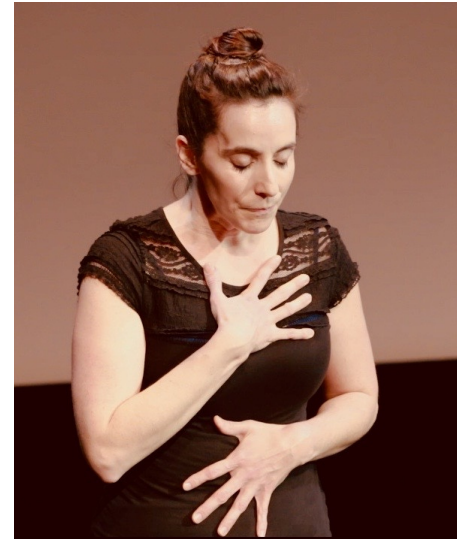
Hello, I'm Diana Varco - an advanced improviser, storyteller and actress, turned mental health advocate.

Through performances of my solo play *Shattered*, post-show discussions, public speaking engagements, and show-related workshops,

I help people discover strength in their stories, cultivate compassion, and - even find a sense of play - in some of life's toughest experiences.

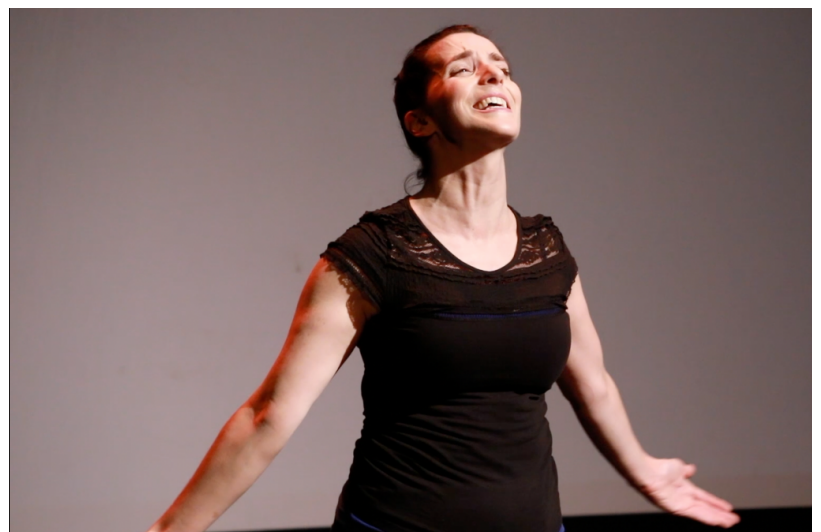
Starting the conversation is hard, with others and within ourselves, but...

*Shattered* is designed to facilitate understanding - breaking down stigma and shame that leave far too many people to suffer in silence.




Themes include:

- Mental Health
- Dating & Relationships
- Sexual Assault
- Creative Expression
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Suicidal Ideation
- The Power of Shame
- Resilience
- Post-traumatic Growth
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)  
and more...




# SHATTERED

## SHOW SYNOPSIS




All her life, solo artist Diana Varco hasn't hit it off with the fellas. In third grade, she kicked her crush in the crotch and her dating life didn't really improve from there.

What starts with Diana asking herself 'Why don't I date much?' becomes a shocking and satirical exploration of past experiences that shaped her views of sex, love and relationships.



Playing over 35 characters, Diana engages narration, flashback and character personification to deliver a powerhouse performance - filled with wit, poignancy, and vulnerability.



Using comedy to take us through tragedy, *Shattered* ultimately tells the tale of one individual picking up the broken pieces of herself and learning to live again.

Runtime: 60 - 65 min

*\*Content warning: Mature material, contains discussion of sexual assault and potentially distressing themes, strong language.*



# OUR TEAM



Diana Varco is an Upright Citizens Brigade and Groundlings trained advanced improviser, storyteller and actress. Since its premiere in 2017, her solo play *Shattered* has toured to Los Angeles, New York, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and a 25-show run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Recently, *Shattered* participated at virtual festivals in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as the **C** digital | **C** ARTS programme at the Edinburgh Fringe.

With over 10 years of experience in comedy, Diana co-created and co-produced Ladies' Night (Lady Jam/Fempire) - a variety show for female-identifying artists that ran for over 5 years, co-created and co-produced the improv-based web series *Riding Buddies* (available on YouTube) and co-wrote the pilot *Mom Circle* (available on the Undiscovered Scripts Podcast.) For more information, visit: [www.dianavarco.com](http://www.dianavarco.com)



Jessica Lynn Johnson (Director/Solo Theatre Guidance) is a published playwright, recipient of *Best National Solo Artist Award*, Board Member of the LA Women's Theatre Festival, Director for Whitefire Theatre's SoloFest, and Founder & CEO of Soaring Solo LLC. Jessica works as a full-time Director & Developer of solo theatre having aided in the development of over 150 solo shows (and still going strong)! As a performer, Jessica has educated and entertained international audiences touring her own 25-character, one-person shows *ZE* and *Oblivious To Everyone* for over 15 years. Over the years, Jessica's projects have taken home awards such as *Top Of Fringe*, *HFF Encore Producer Awards*, *Tvolution Best Solo Performance*, *Larry Cornwall Award For Musical Excellence* and several other accolades! Jessica was nominated *Female Director of Distinction in Theatre* by Girl Trip LLC at the 2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival. She is honored to collaborate on *Shattered!* [www.JessicaLynnJohnson.com](http://www.JessicaLynnJohnson.com).

# THE PLATFORM

PERFORMANCE OFFERINGS

*Available in-person and virtually*

## **A Performance of *Shattered* with a post-show artist or panel discussion**



A live or taped performance of *Shattered* (or excerpt of the show), followed by an artist Q&A with Diana and the audience.

*Possible topics include: artistic process, journey of the show, crafting a solo show, artist support, etc.*

*Possible topics for a panel discussion include: mental health & wellness, storytelling for social impact, arts & resilience, etc.*

## **Speaking Presentation**

A carefully crafted 'key note' speech to highlight an area of interest or topic of choice, using references or excerpts from *Shattered*, other projects under Diana Varco Creative Works, and lessons learned in the creative process.

*Possible topics include: Storytelling for Survivors, How I Learned to Stand-up to Shame, The Role of Improv & Performance in my Healing Journey, etc.*

## **Workshops**

A 60 minute interactive workshop led by Diana:

- The *Shattered* Story Process
- Creating Characters to Cope - How to Use Improv to Engage Everyday Emotions
- Light in the Dark - How to Find a Sense of Play in Difficult Subject Matter
- An Overview of Tips for Performing at Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- How to Find Fun in Fundraising
- How to Apply Performance Techniques to Public Speaking
- Using Humor to Be Heard: Lessons Learned in writing *Shattered*

## **A *Shattered* show, speech and/or workshop is great for:**

- **Entertainment**
- **Fundraising**
- **Education**
- **Personal Growth**
- **Female Empowerment\*\***

\*\*Female identifying & non-binary

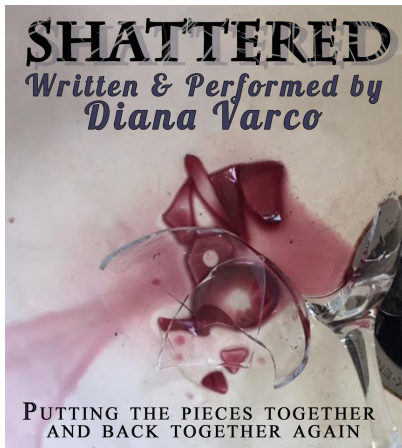
*Contact*

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# SHOW HISTORY



## 2017 FESTIVALS

- *Shattered* premieres - Whitefire Theatre SoloFest, LA
- Hollywood Fringe Festival, LA
- Level Ground, LA
- United Solo, NYC (Off-Broadway)

## 2018 FESTIVALS

- Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival, LA
- Santa Monica Playhouse Binge Fringe Festival of Free Theatre, CA

## 2019 EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE



- 25-show theatrical run in Edinburgh, Scotland
- Community outreach and partnerships
- Successfully raised \$10k via Kickstarter
- Rave reviews - 4 and 5 stars

### New Logo!

Graphic Design:  
Darcy Briks, Second Language Design  
Photo Credit:  
Laura Burke Photography



## 2020-2021

### SHATTERED GOES VIRTUAL

- Whitefire Theatre (live-stream)
- Edinburgh Festival Fringe - C ARTS (digital)
- Lahti Fringe, Finland (in-person)
- Caveat, NYC (in-person / digital)
- Melbourne Fringe, Australia (digital)

## 2022 GROWTH CONTINUES

- C ARTS on-going programme (digital)
- Orlando Fringe Mini-Digi Fest (digital)
- NZ Fringe, New Zealand (digital)
- Dunedin Fringe, New Zealand (digital)
- Solo Voce Festival, NYC (in-person)
- Brighton Fringe, England (digital)
- Reykjavík Fringe, Iceland (in-person)
- Edinburgh Festival Fringe - C ARTS (in-person / digital)
- Gothenburg Fringe, Sweden (in-person)
- Sydney Fringe, Australia (digital)
- Melbourne Fringe, Australia (digital)



# REVIEWS



Louise Penn, [LouReviews.blog](http://LouReviews.blog)



[FringeBiscuit.com](http://FringeBiscuit.com)  
(Aisha Josiah, Editor)



Jodie McVicar, [BroadwayBaby.com](http://BroadwayBaby.com)



Elaine Mura, [Splashmags.com](http://Splashmags.com)



Emma Maguire, [Theatreview.org.nz](http://Theatreview.org.nz)



Samantha Simmonds-Ronceros,  
[NoHoArtsDistrict.com](http://NoHoArtsDistrict.com)

# Tech Rider



## Theatre Setting & Time Requirements

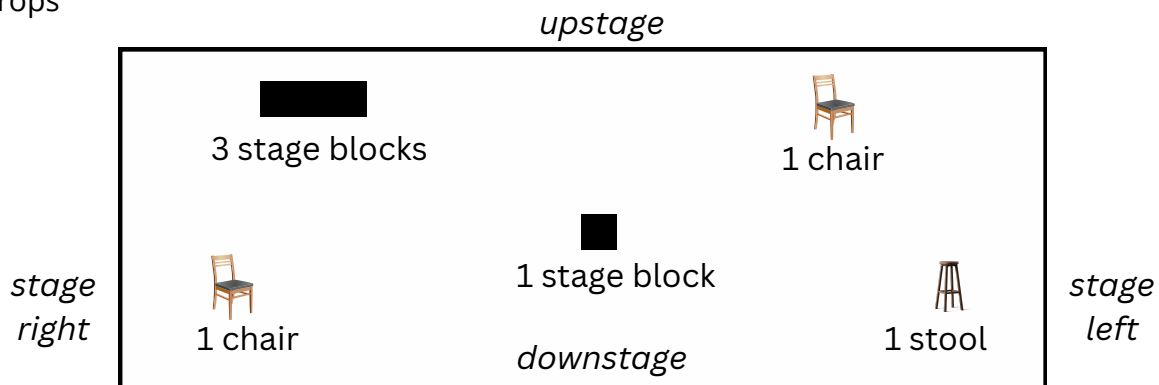
- *Shattered* works best in a black box theatre
- Show duration: 60 - 65 min (shorter versions available)
- Pre-show set-up: 15 min | Post-show breakdown: 15 min
- Technical rehearsal: 3-4 hours (2-3 hours for set-up, 1 hour to run)

## Community Engagement

- A post-show Q&A or panel discussion of at least 20-30min is ideal
- Show related workshops and 'key note' speeches available

## Set needs

- 4 stage blocks | 2 chairs | 1 Stool
  - 5 chairs may be substituted for the above set
- no props



## Technical Requirements

*A technician is required to run lighting and sound*

### Hi-Tech

- Approximately 50-75 cues (quick light changes and precise timing - 1 sec or 0 sec fade)
- Light isolation including center, DSR, USR, DSL, USL, central harsh spotlight, upstage, downstage
- The ability to create warm/cool lighting looks
- GOBO or *Shattered* effect
- LEDs - Red, Magenta, Blue, Purple, Green, Teal
- QLab or stereo system to play sound cues
- Projection capabilities

### Medium-Tech

- Approximately 40-55 cues (quick light changes - 1 sec or 0 sec fade)
- The ability to create warm/cool lighting looks
- Central harsh spotlight, stage right/stage left isolation
- Stereo system to play sound cues

### Low-Tech

- Lights up/Lights down
- Stereo system or laptop to play sound cues (if available)

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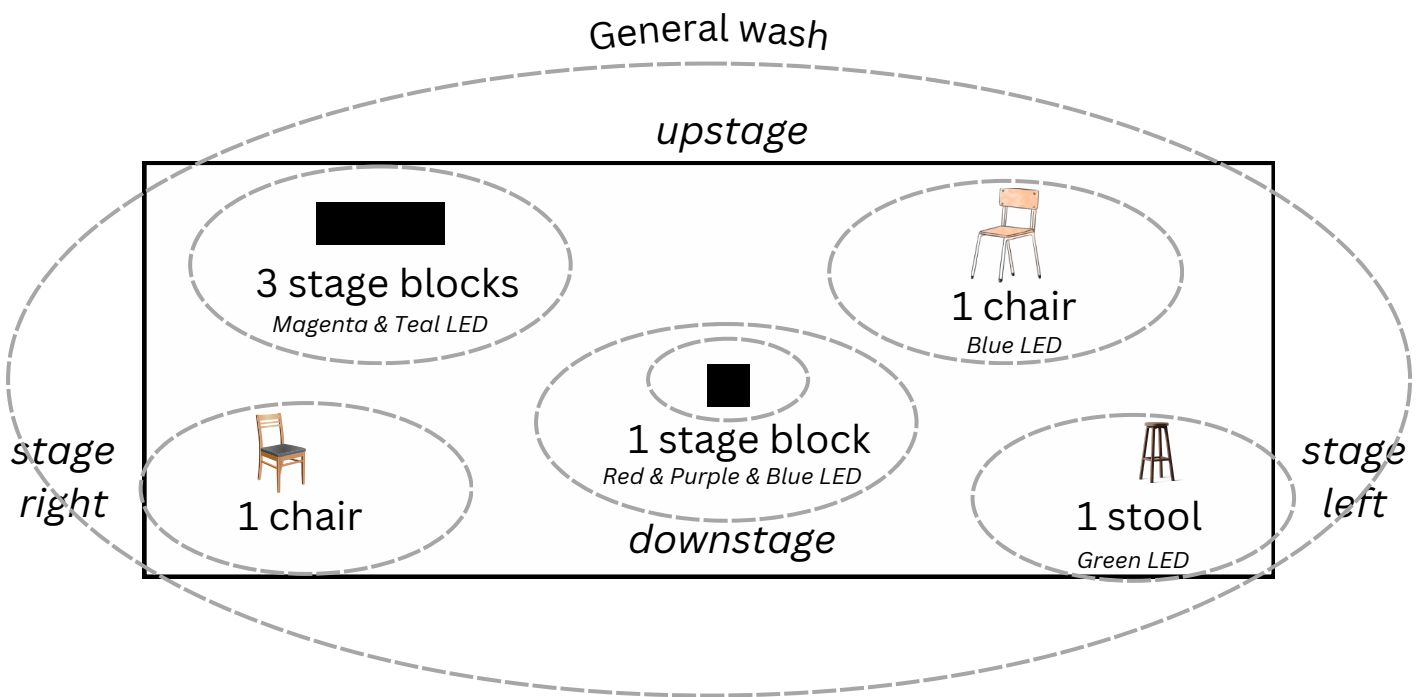


# Stage Plot

## Set Needs

- 4 stage blocks
  - 3 blocks upstage right
  - 1 block center stage
- 2 chairs
  - 1 chair upstage left
  - 1 chair downstage right
- 1 Stool
  - downstage left

\*5 chairs may be substituted for the above set\*  
*no props necessary*



## Lighting Needs

- General warm wash
- Precisely timed fade (0 to 1 sec)
- Isolations: center, upstage (right/left), downstage (right/left), back wall
- Spotlight: center and harsh center spot
- GOBO or *Shattered* effect if available
- LED lights: Red, Magenta, Blue, Green, Purple, Teal

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