

ZERO FEET AWAY

the results

Zero Feet Away hits the mark

The 2014 Feast Festival saw a ground breaking new approach in HIV prevention education. ActNow Theatre's interactive performance, Zero Feet Away, explored the ways in which individuals find intimacy and navigate sex and relationships in virtual spaces.

Audience members took part in the performance through an app on their phones that allowed them to engage in anonymous and safe conversations about sexuality, intimacy and identity with fellow audience members. These conversations then influenced the trajectory of the live performance. Through these conversations, the audience learnt about different ways to stay safe in online spaces and to prevent the transmission of HIV.

A recent evaluation of the performance undertaken by Relationships Australia SA demonstrated the success of the performance in inspiring audience members to begin thinking about different ways to keep themselves safe. Most said that the performance helped them to understand the importance of regular testing and encouraged them to begin evaluating their current testing behaviours and sex practices.

Above all, participants relished the interactive nature of the performance and the ability to share personal stories, such as experiences of coming out and feelings of loneliness, in a safe environment. Audience members described the sharing of stories by both the audience and actors as brave, honest, generous, liberating, powerful, engaging, and unlike anything they had seen before. The interaction afforded by the performance fostered a sense of connection between audience members and helped them to feel less isolated and alone in their experiences.



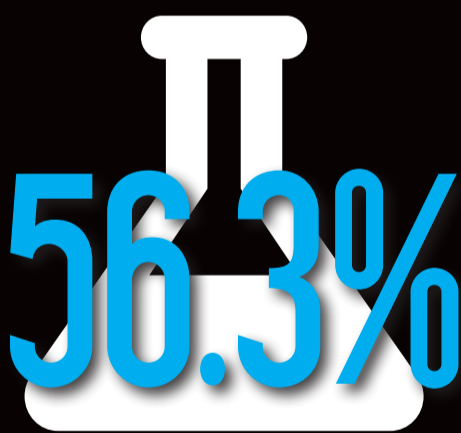
Participants rated the performance quality



Likelihood of recommending the performance to someone else



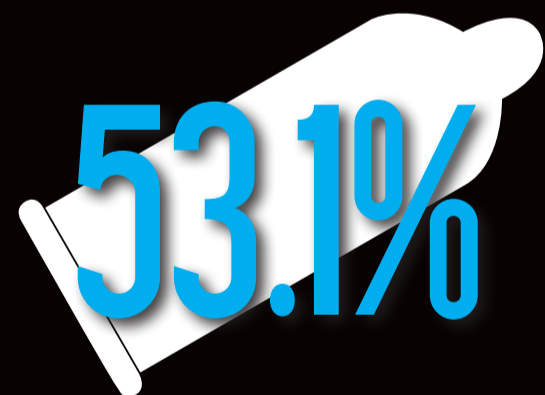
Said that the performance made them want to learn more about PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis)



Said the performance encouraged them to evaluate their testing behaviours



Said that the performance improved their understanding of testing as a way to prevent the transmission of HIV



Said the performance encouraged them to evaluate their current sex practices

What resonated most with audience members?

- The sharing of personal stories
- The audience participation and interaction
- The use of technology

Why?

- Fostered a sense of connection
- Enabled audience members to reflect on their own experiences
- Provided an opportunity to hear how other people have dealt with similar issues and to realise that there is no one solution to a complex problem