



Mt. Ararat High School Civil Rights Team Recommendation for the Black Jew Dialogues

To many high school students, the word “assembly” is synonymous with the words dry, dull, and boring, and many students dread the all-school assembly. The Black Jew Dialogues, through its honest and funny dialogue, redefines what a school assembly can be—engaging, educational and enlightening.

Ron Jones and Larry Tish have created a funny, interactive show, which, in the words of one of our students, “got the point across in an entertaining and educational way.” That point is that unless people truly listen and engage in honest dialogue, prejudice and hatred of others will continue. Ron and Larry are not afraid to talk honestly about the stereotypes that exist about and among Jews and African Americans and, by doing so, gain the respect of their audience.

When the Black Jew Dialogues first came to the attention of the Mt. Ararat High School Civil Rights Team, we knew they would be able to reach our students in a way a more serious presentation would not. Ron and Larry skillfully weave humor and seriousness into a performance which does not shut down students by being preachy. One of the best features of the Black Jew Dialogues is the audience participation. Ron and Larry call on students in the audience to participate, and even come down into the seating area to interact with them. The final thirty minutes of their show is dedicated to student questions and comments, which allows students to process the show’s content and to share their own stories.

We continue to hear positive comments about the Black Jew Dialogues. In fact, one student in his campaign speech for student council said he would work to bring more assemblies, like the Black Jew Dialogues to Mt. Ararat. The Black Jew Dialogues is so successful because both Ron and Larry are committed to listening to youth and engaging in open and honest dialogue.

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