



The Theater Bug proudly presents a brand new original play, *You're Still Here*, by Cori Anne Laemmel. *You're Still Here* is being produced in consultation with Alive Hospice Grief Center. It will feature a cast of 33 actors, including local professionals Melodie Madden Adams, Lauren Berst and Bakari Jamal King. The production will include an original score by Anthony and Laura Matula and will run July 28th-August 5th. ASL Interpretation will be provided at the performance on August 4. Performances will be held at The Theater Bug, located at 4809 Gallatin Pike in the back building of New Life Baptist Church. Tickets online (ticketsnashville.com) are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$17 and \$7, respectively, up to one hour prior to showtime, if available. This show explores mature topics and uses some adult language.

Soon after the death of her Father, Mia starts to see her Grief personified. At first, she is frustrated with her new friend's presence, but soon learns that as her friends and family see her Grief, they give her the attention and understanding she needs while she is healing. Her friends are always willing to come over and talk. Her mom gives her special time away from her young twin siblings. Her teachers give her extensions on projects at school. As time goes on, less and less people are able to see her Grief and Mia wonders if she is the only person who can see her, why is she still here? Her pain is still raw and Grief, desperate to be seen, talks Mia into vandalizing her own locker. Immediately after, Grief is seen and heard even stronger than before, and her friends and family rally for her in her time of need. Ultimately, Mia must reconcile what she has done and make things right, even if it means being alone again with her Grief.

For more information about The Theater Bug, please visit thetheaterbug.org.

The Grief Center at Alive Hospice comprises eight master's level counselors, who are dedicated to providing the highest quality care. No other agency in Middle Tennessee offers a comprehensive program of individual and group bereavement counseling for children and adults, along with the other specialized education and outreach programs that are the Alive hallmark. Visit their website at alivehospice.org to learn more. Many thanks to the counselors at Alive who assisted in reviewing the script and offering professional guidance for this production.

All photos and artwork by MA2LA. Ayla Williams & Virginia Richardson featured.