How to Stage a V-Day Benefit of The Vagina Monologues - Rules, Guidelines & Info

In 2020, staging a production of The Vagina Monologues or A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer is more than just a theatrical experience; it is an ARTISTIC UPRISING, a RADICAL act, an ACT OF RESISTANCE.

Twenty-one years ago, women's reactions to The Vagina Monologues launched V-Day, a global activist movement to end violence against all women and girls (cisgender, transgender & gender non-conforming). Today, the movement is more active than ever, with the worldwide V-Day activists at its core producing art for social change, activating communities & colleges, raising crucial funds for rape crisis centers & domestic violence shelters, local programs for transgender youth at risk of sexual violence, for immigrant women and girls, and so for many more causes that reflect the needs of their communities.

V-Day activists stage benefit productions of The Vagina Monologues and A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer, during the month of February, in their colleges and communities, raising funds and awareness for local anti-violence groups. They also produce Rising events in their communities via the One Billion Rising campaign, to galvanize community action around ending violence against women, taking events and actions out of the theater and into the streets. They screen the documentary film CITY OF JOY to share the story of women survivors in the Democratic Republic of Congo turning their pain into power.

Activists infuse their productions with the spirit of V-Day: Rise, Resist, Unite, producing the play in radical spaces including city halls, houses of worship, and even in front of Trump Tower. They platform Resistance within their productions collaborating with a range of local anti-violence groups, including groups working to end campus sexual assault, Say Her Name and Black Lives Matter, groups working to support refugees and immigrant rights, end mass incarceration, promote fair pay and economic justice issues for women workers and many more. They amplify and uplift the most marginalized identities and narratives within their communities, centering their identities on stage and harnessing the power of The Vagina Monologues to create a space for critical conversations and voices. V-teams (organizers, directors, cast, team members) worldwide include formerly incarcerated women, women workers, Indigenous women,
immigrant women, transgender women and gender non-conforming folks.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PRODUCING A V-DAY BENEFIT OF THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES:**

Failure to adhere to these rules will result in V-Day’s rescinding permission for you to present a V-Day event.

**Most Important:**

1. Organizers must register for the rights to host ANY V-Day event EVERY year.
2. We encourage organizers to work collaboratively with all other V-Day events in your area. We will be putting you in touch with one another!
3. Performances of *The Vagina Monologues* should happen between 1 February and 8 March ONLY. For out of season options, visit [http://www.eveensler.org/plays/the-vagina-monologues/](http://www.eveensler.org/plays/the-vagina-monologues/)
4. You must adhere to the 2020 script (available for download on the V-Spot after approval). The play must be performed from start to finish and no pieces can be taken out. No self-written pieces may be added.

**Money:**

1. Charge an admission fee for your production unless given special permission by writing to campaigns@vday.org
2. **SPOTLIGHT UPDATE: There will NOT be a specific spotlight campaign in 2020. Instead, we ask that activists donate** 100% of your proceeds to a group or groups in your community who are doing anti-violence work at rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, groups working with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, with refugee women, and with women affected by climate catastrophe. Research and support groups on the front line in your community, serving survivors who have been traditionally marginalized or made vulnerable to violence due to current socio-political conditions.
3. Organizers & all supporting teams should NOT be paid. (Union technical staff contracted by venue is the only exceptions.)
4. Keep production costs down. Donation goal should be 91 cents of every dollar.

**Beneficiary:**

1. **REQUIRED - Choose a LOCAL organization working to end violence against women & girls (cisgender, transgender & gender non-conforming), as outlined in the beneficiary guidelines, NOT a large national nonprofit or international NGO.**
2. Invite your beneficiary to participate in your activities, outreach and publicity.
Organizer requirements:

1. Only ONE organizer is approved for each event.
2. We require an active email address that can be shared publicly.

Venue:

1. Your venue must coincide with your group affiliation (college, community or high school) unless otherwise approved by the Directors of the Campaigns. (campaigns@vday.org)

Scripts:

1. Use ONLY the 2020 version of the scripts for your event. NO books or previous scripts are authorized.
2. No edits are allowed to monologues or introductions AT ALL. No changes to the order they appear in the script.
3. No additions to the scripts are allowed unless specified in the guidelines.
4. Do not reproduce any scripts for any purpose other than V-Day events.
5. All V-Day events should not exceed 90 minutes.
6. Performances should be done without intermissions.

Casting:

1. A minimum of 5 people in your TVM performances. No maximum & we encourage you to include as many people as possible. No one should be turned away from participating in your event in some capacity.
2. Strive for diversity of all kinds.
3. No acting experience is necessary.
4. All women and non-binary folks are invited to audition and bring in their individual identities and experiences to their performance; participation does not involve vagina-essentialism, but a connection to the themes and narratives expressed in the play. No cisgender men acting, but please include and encourage their involvement in other elements of your production. We leave it to you to make the casting decisions for your individual production. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out and write to us at campaigns@vday.org.

Publicity:

1. You must use your correct event title, as it appears on the top of your V-Spot login, in all publicity.
2. Please adhere to the ‘Identify Your Event’ document provided on the V-Spot.
3. Absolutely no excerpt performances of any plays for promotional purposes or otherwise.

4. No filming of events beyond 3-minute publicity limits outlined in “Publicity” section of the V-Spot.

5. Your official event name will be: V-Day [your college/city name/youth group] *The Vagina Monologues* 2020.

If you would like to produce *The Vagina Monologues* outside the month of February, please visit: [http://www.eveensler.org/plays/the-vagina-monologues/](http://www.eveensler.org/plays/the-vagina-monologues/).

If you have any questions, please contact campaigns@vday.org

**About V-Day:**
Twenty one years ago, Eve Ensler’s play *The Vagina Monologues* gave birth to V-Day, a global activist movement to end violence against all women and girls (cisgender, transgender, and gender non-conforming).

Since 1998, *The Vagina Monologues* and other works have been performed across the world by local V-Day activists, raising over $120 million dollars for grassroots anti-violence groups, rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and safe houses in places like Kenya and Afghanistan. V-Day supports and launched the City of Joy, a revolutionary center for women survivors of gender violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has graduated over 1300 women leaders.

Activists look at the intersection of class, race, gender, environmental destruction, imperialism, militarism, patriarchy, poverty, and war, as women face abuse and exploitation across layers of systematic and societal oppression, with the most marginalized and excluded often facing increased levels of violence.

In 2013, V-Day gave birth to One Billion Rising – the largest mass action to demand an end to violence against women in history. V-Day and One Billion Rising are a crucial part of the global fight to stop gender-based violence through attacking the silence — public and private — that allows violence against women to continue.

With ingenuity and determination, V-Day activists around the world are tirelessly working to end harassment, rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sex slavery.

**VIDEOS:**
“What is V-Day?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOavpgneEuc


Award winning short film, ONE BILLION RISING, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2014:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=C3WrT8HG4wY

BREAK THE CHAIN - Song that launched One Billion Rising in 2013, by Tena Clarke, became a centerpiece of Rising events
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL5N8rSy4CU

The trailer for the CITY OF JOY documentary film
https://www.dropbox.com/s/q3sc1i0j6z93wt1/CofJ_Trailer_7_13.mov?dl=0.