

January 21, 2022

To whom it may concern,

My experience with So Now You Know, Mixed eMotion Theatrix and Janet started over 2 years ago. On behalf of the volunteers at La Mirada Theatre, I met Janet to find out about the show and possibly get some of our volunteers to audition. She made we feel so welcomed that I told her the story that I told in the show. Little did I know that she wanted me to audition.

The audition itself was fun and very interesting. You need to know that I have never been on a stage before, so this was all new for me. Well, I made the cast. All the rehearsals were so much fun and I got to meet Ryan Bergmann who was so helpful and heartwarming. We became a very close cast with our La Mirada Community. Everyone was helpful and encouraging.

Janet and Ryan helped with making me so comfortable talking in front of people and let me express myself. I can't tell you how much my confidence grew. I can't say that I wasn't full of nerves the day of the show, but I was proud of myself.

After cancelling our show in 2020 because of Covid-19, we were given another opportunity in 2022. Janet made this experience so safe for all of us. We were tested EVERY TIME we got together for rehearsal and wore our masks. I definitely felt safe.

The day finally came that I got to meet her dancers. What a great supportive group! Very talented, gorgeous dancers and fun to be around. We definitely came together. The process on Tech night and dress rehearsal was so interesting for me, because I have never been involved in this process. I can't say enough on how much I learned.

I am glad that I was a part of this cast and given the opportunity to tell my story.

So Now I Know, you can succeed in whatever you go out and try!

Shirley Russo

President of La Mirada Performing Arts Theatre Volunteers