

## Biography

Born in Detroit and raised in Boston, John Morello has been on stage for 15 years as an actor and headlining comedian. At one time a high school drop out, he now holds a BA in Theatre Arts and has appeared in numerous productions throughout New England. Although he has spent most of his time making people laugh he has always found himself working with people whose everyday realities are anything but funny.

John considers himself a survivor of a "high risk" childhood. As a teenager he witnessed friends and family struggle with addiction. As a teacher in a treatment center he saw students struggle with the family cycles of self-abuse. John's response to these struggles is a show called "Dirt." With this new show touring the country, John is connecting with audiences in a unique theatrical setting. It is his hope that in his show everyone will see someone they know, especially themselves.

John and his schnauzer currently reside in Boston, Massachusetts.



## Reviews

I have been at this school for 12 years. Your show was the best! I was brought to tears during the WWII vet segment and into the last memorial segment. You do a great job making us laugh, pulling us in, getting us to believe your characters. Please keep doing what you are doing.

- Teacher from Ramapo College, NJ

I am the kid who is in the band who played after you. I stayed after and talked to you a bit. John, I have been wanting for some one like you to come. Every kid who was there is going to think twice before they light up again so I guess what I am trying to say is that you got everyone to wake up and think about what is going on and I think that everyone who was there today got the message.

- Student from Williston Northampton HS, MA

I am not the kind of kid who acts dorky and cries. I am a kid like you probably were, trying to be cool and all this bull. I was laughing so hard at that stoner character and then now here it is midnight, hours later, and I'm crying. I meet you and everything turns around. You spoke as one of us. It was like everything all of a sudden made sense because of the way you brought things to us. When I think back about your show there are so many things I still remember. These characters reached me, because they were real, they are everywhere, they are my friends and neighbors and it touches people so much more when they finally realize that "those addicts" are people like you and me.

-Student from Burlington Regional HS, NJ

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# DiRt

A one man show of substance  
abuse and choices



Written & performed by  
John Morello



# DiRt: A one man show of substance abuse and choices

## One life telling the story of many

What began as therapy for a broken heart has turned into one of the most popular assemblies for students across the country. Actor/Comedian John Morello now finds himself on a mission. Having spent most of his life watching friends and family become victims of destructive decisions he responded by writing the one man show "Dirt". Not a lecture or seminar, "Dirt" truly is a play of many characters all performed by one actor. With 15 years of stage experience Morello comically and effortlessly slips in and out of the characters to tell a story which is compelling, unique, and yet is unfortunately the story of far too many of our young people. Audiences are sure to see someone they know or can relate to and it is this cathartic recognition that has been connecting with young people across the country. Recently Morello's show "Dirt" has become the number one recommended assembly for young people by the New England and New Jersey chapters of SADD, MADD, and ASAP (Association of Student Assistance Professionals). "Dirt" is now endorsed for camps and retreats like TIGS, MADD Power Camp, and numerous peer mediation groups. The formula for this success is quite simple according to Morello. "Kids don't need flashing lights, cliches, and a

*circus production to connect with them. Like all of us they want honesty, respect, and someone who is real."* As characters speak honestly about their experiences the audience understands how seemingly disconnected lives are indeed tied together and influencing each-other. In the end "Dirt" addresses the core reasons for substance abuse such as self esteem, depression, and a desire to find a purpose in this often chaotic life. Laughter and tears combine to tell a simple tale which will leave your audience spellbound and thinking about how much one single life is worth. Every student will be captivated and changed by this powerful performance.

## The Cast of Characters

- David: A high school junior becoming entangled in ecstasy and prescription drugs.
- Jason: Every town's "stoner" who sees weed and his actions as harmless.
- Melissa; A college bound girl who drinks "socially" and is now dealing with the issue of date-rape.
- Hank: A 79 year old WWII veteran who reflects on his life, his choices, and his care for the young people in his life.

## Booking & Rates

\$1700.00/ performance + travel

Multiple shows/block booking discounts available

Adequate stage, lights, and PA required

Gymnasiums not recommended

Appropriate for High Schools, Middle Schools & Colleges

