

## ABOUT THE PLAY

John Buffalo Mailer wrote *Hello Herman* in response to the Columbine School Massacre. John was, and continues to be, amazed by the increasing amount of violence happening in our schools and he wanted to express his feeling and concerns using art and theater. The play has been performed in theaters across the country and has recently been made into a movie, *Hello Herman*, starring Norman Reedus and Garrett Backstrom. The play follows a normal, middle-class kid, Herman, as he is continually bullied and abused until he feels his only option is extreme violence against all of his aggressors and others who, subtly and not so subtly, allowed the bullying to continue. After he wipes out a number of people at his school, he contacts a reporter, Lax Morales, so he can tell his story on TV before he is executed for his crimes. Lax has a terrible past of his own and is haunted by Herman's story as he relives his own terrible history. We hope that the play helps provide a context for all of us to raise the dialogue around ending bullying.

To get a copy of the *Hello Herman* script, go to [thehellohermanproject.com/play](http://thehellohermanproject.com/play)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Buffalo Mailer is an actor, journalist, playwright and producer. He co-founded Back House Productions in New York City with Thomas Kail and two other Wesleyan grads in October of 2000. Within one year Back House became the resident theater company of The Drama Bookshop's Arthur Seelan Theater, and have developed several plays, including the 2008 TONY Award Winner for Best Musical, *In The Heights*. He can be seen in Oliver Stone's *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* and the upcoming Matthew Barney film *River of Fundament*. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild, Actors Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild and The Actors Studio.

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This Educators' Guide was prepared by Colleen Carroll, literacy specialist, teacher, curriculum writer-developer, education consultant, and author of the 12-volume childrens book series, *How Artists See* (Abbeville Press).

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