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Elliott's performance of *A Finished Heart* is transformative. So many of the children and families who attend our support groups before and after the death of a family member talk about how difficult it is to articulate their experience. In this performance, Elliott manages to give voice to what is so often the wordless language of our hearts, especially when they are broken open by grief. No matter your history with illness and loss, *A Finished Heart* will help you to better understand what it means to show up and be present with life, love, and ultimately death.

Despite being in the field of grief for over 15 years, I learned a great deal during this performance. Before this event, I hadn't fully considered how active someone can be in their dying process. *A Finished Heart* does an amazing job of offering the perspective of both the person who is ill and their caregiver. The mutual understanding, love, and care Elliott and Chris created both in life and death serves as an inspiration to all of us about how important those elements are in being human with one another.

It was an honor to be part of the post-performance panel discussion. The questions from the audience and the responses from Elliott and the other panel members continue to reverberate, even days after the performance.

Thank you for the opportunity!

Sincerely,

Jana DeCristofaro, LCSW

Coordinator of Children's Grief Services

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