

A Child Left Behind

written and performed by Alan Aymie



directed by
Paul Stein

He fought hard to teach his students...he fought harder to teach his son.



A Child Left Behind

By Alan Aymie

"....Thank you for performing your play, *A Child Left Behind*, for our professional development series. It was informative for our special education students as they prepare to work with students on the spectrum and their families. Your passionate perspective and ability to connect with the audience made this a compelling experience. Our faculty reported that they used the play to also address important issues related to both special education and low socio-economic challenges. We truly appreciated the opportunity to work with you and provide this exceptional experience for our students and faculty....

" Dr. Shirley Resich, MA, Clinical Coordinator CalState Dominguez Hills



teachthespectrum.com



About 'A Child Left Behind'

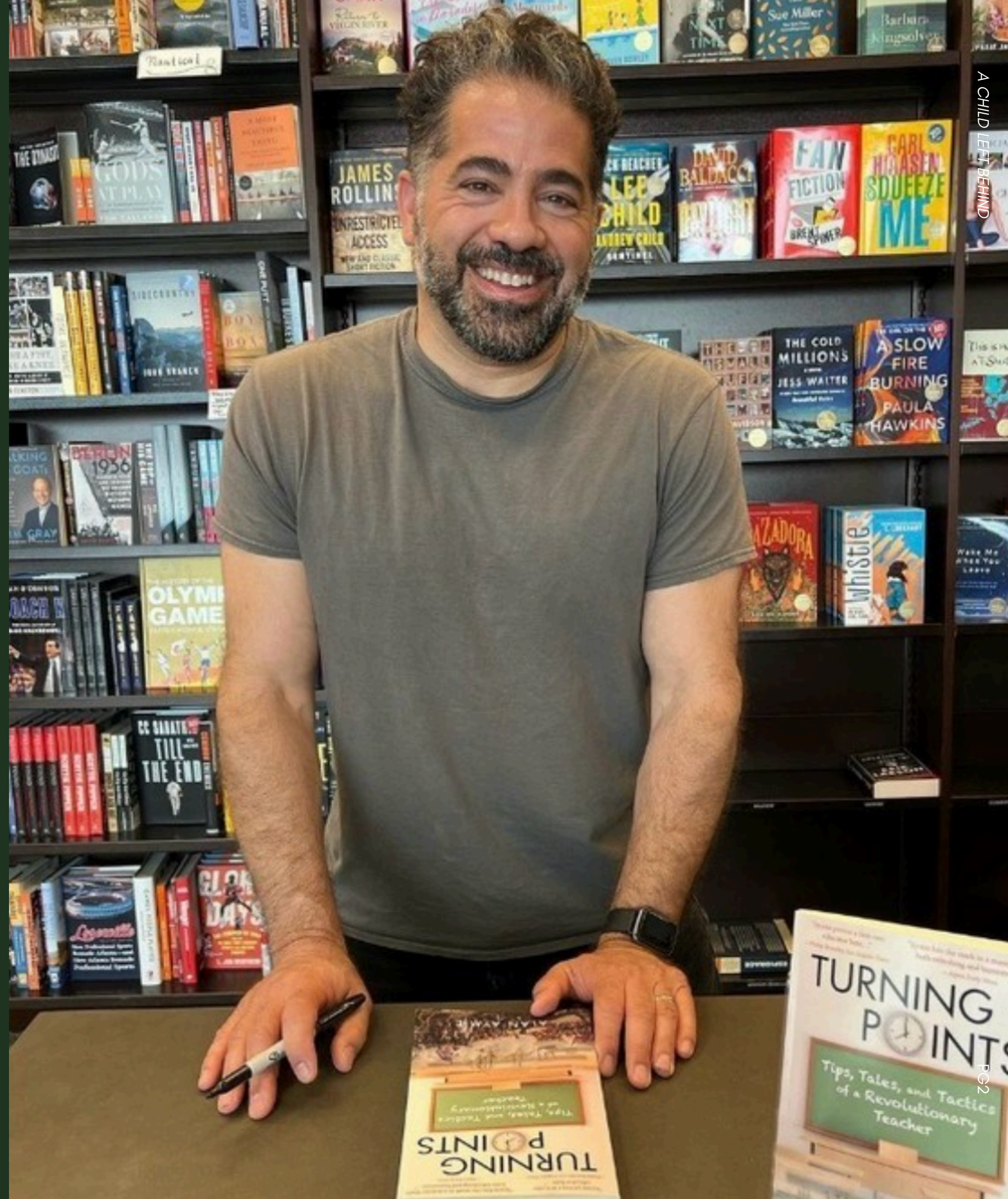
Imagine a world where neurodivergent children feel seen, heard, and thrive. '*A Child Left Behind*' is more than a performance – it's a powerful catalyst for that change.

Join Alan Aymie as he shares this deeply moving 55 minute journey of navigating education and autism within parenthood and public education. The story is a mirror to the challenges educators and parents face daily, and a window into the unique hurdles neurodivergent and Title One students have to overcome.

Through Alan's critically acclaimed storytelling, born of real-world experience, '*A Child Left Behind*' sparks profound empathy and understanding. It leaves educators and parents with the evidence-based practices and practical strategies needed in creating supportive environments for children to flourish.

More than a performance, this presentation provides the inspiration, guidance and tools needed to advocate for and work with neurodivergent students, understand their strengths, and to help them unlock their fullest potential.

'*A Child Left Behind*' is a call to action for every child to be seen while providing the roadmap for building a more inclusive, compassionate world – one classroom at a time.





Alan Aymie

Autism Specialist

Alan Aymie is a writer, educator, autism advocate, and most importantly a father to a child on the Autism Spectrum.

After twenty + years in public education as a classroom teacher, SEL Specialist, and autism support provider, Alan moved on to provide autism advocacy, life coaching, and educational training through his company, Teach the Spectrum. He has been a requested presenter at both the CTA Special Education & New Teachers educational conferences for the past four years and has visited hundreds of schools to provide autism support and training.

A published author, Alan speaks across the country on his book, "Turning Points – Tips, Tales, and Tactics of a Revolutionary Teacher".

Each April, Alan tours the country to promote autism awareness with his critically solo play, *A Child Left Behind*. Alan lives with his wife and family in Los Angeles.

Testimonials

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“Alan was amazing! The session was fantastic! –
Teacher (CTA, Special Education Conference)

“This was great! I am able to understand not only my students but my
son as well!” –
RSP Teacher (CTA, Special Education Conference)

“Thank you so much! You were my favorite presenter!” – Alana Y.
(FSUSD RSP Teacher)

“Everything, the theory, the examples, the personal stories... It was
excellent!!” –
Diana. C. (LAUSD RSP Teacher)

“Great presentation... left such an impact on me...” – Jeannette H.
(LAUSD Gen-Ed Teacher)

“Very informative... Lots of important information shared...Thank you!
Will invite you back to share with staff! :)” – Ruth K. (LAUSD Principal)

“Every bit of it. Mr. Aymie is very knowledgeable – I love how this
training was presented!” –
Parent (Beverly Hills)



“I liked the strategies best... deescalating situations and tips on how to
help children with ASD” –
Martha H. (LAUSD B.I.)

“Thank you so much! This has been a needed training for many years!” –
Vicky K. (LAUSD Teacher)

“I wish I had this training last year!” –
S. Johnson, Harrison Elementary

“Everything...! The theories, practical strategies, personal examples...It
was excellent!” –
D. Carrillo – West Adams High School

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Press & Reads



A Celebration of Local Artists and Performers. #LAMadeLAPL

The Neurodivergent Starfish Story



Based on the well-known "Starfish Story" parable, The Neurodivergent Starfish Story provides a detailed background in what ASD is, how it is characterized, and the best ways to support, integrate, and effectively work with/teach your autism spectrum child/student. Exploring how to best work with your school in regards to your child's current or potential IEP, communicate effectively with school and classroom teachers (or parents), and grasp effective strategies and practices to best support your child/student's success.

Saturday, March 23
12 noon - 1 p.m.

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For questions, email: social@lapl.org



This program series has been made possible with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For ADA accommodations, please call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.



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A Child — and a Teacher — Left Behind

FIRST PERSON by ALAN AYMIE | April 19, 2012



Alan Aymie in "A Child Left Behind"

Last year, I was struggling to finish a play about the Old Man of the Mountain and family secrets, looking for the inspiration or my muse to help me finish the project. But I had to put the play on hold when I learned that LAUSD, the school district for which I had worked for more than 11 years, was giving me my pink slip. So I tucked my unfinished play into my drawer and joined the thousands of other laid-off teachers who were protesting the current budget cuts in front of LAUSD headquarters.

The teachers cheered, the union president raised his hands like a returning war hero. But the only other person watching this event was some homeless man across the street — no parents, no community members — only some dirty man in ragged clothing, dancing to Michael Jackson's *Thriller* on his beaten-up boom-box.

I've never liked picket signs — never been very big on protests or their

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PICK OF THE WEEK – GO!

Alan Aymie's autobiographical saga of his travails within LAUSD, *A Child Left Behind*, is this week's Pick. Other New Reviews also include Bill Raden's "GO" review of Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight Los Angeles, 1992*, honoring the 20th anniversary of our most recent riots. Smith is not performing in that production (at the Skylight Theatre, 1816 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz).

Alan Aymie takes aim at the Los Angeles Unified School District and the *L.A. Times* in his solo show *A Child Left Behind*, about his time spent as a teacher in a low-performing school. Laid off from teaching for a second time last year and given a "below average" ranking in the *Times*' database of value-added teacher ratings, which are based on student progress on standardized tests, Aymie picked up a pen instead of a picket sign. The resultant narrative is a Sisyphean struggle to teach poverty-stricken students amidst dwindling budgets and out-of-touch administrators. Compounding Aymie's frustrations over missed connections with kids is his son's diagnosis with Asperger's syndrome. The script balances social and personal commentary successfully, and Aymie's energetic charm allows us easy access to his outrage. Beverly Hills Playhouse, 254 S. Robertson Blvd., Beverly Hills; Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; through May 26. (702) 582-8587. kttickets.com, bhplayhouse.com (Amy Lyons)

http://blogs.laweekly.com/arts/2012/04/twilight_la_1992_back_in_town.php





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Teacher Turns Disgust at Publishing of Value-Added Rating Into Solo Play



As a stage, film, and television actor for 25 years, Alan Aymie understands that his performances may be reviewed by professional critics, whose opinions are published in newspapers and on websites. Through the years, he has learned to appreciate the good notices, and keep in perspective those that are not as favorable.

But as a fifth-grade teacher — employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1999 — he never expected that a one and two-word review of his classroom performance would appear in print and on-line. When *The Los Angeles Times* in 2010 published value-added ratings of elementary school teachers in the LAUSD, Aymie, graded average in English Arts and below average in Math, was livid.

Several of his angry colleagues reacted to release of the data with protests, comments on social media sites, and even by canceling their subscriptions to the *Los Angeles Times*. Aymie took more time with his response; he wrote a solo play, entitled "*A Child Left Behind*," which ran this year at the Beverly Hills Playhouse from mid-April through August 14th. The show will be performed in September on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons at the Ruskin Group Theater Company in Culver City.

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Contact

Alan Aymie

Instagram: @teachthespectrum

Facebook: @teachthespectrum

Phone: (424) 272-1837

Email: alan@teachthespectrum.com

