MY NAME IS YUMI

A short story by Hillary Gardner

Based on "Stop Domestic Violence"
From the TV series "We Are New York"

WE ARE NEW YORK
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My name is Yumi.

I am a theater director.

I am writing a new play.

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of
New York
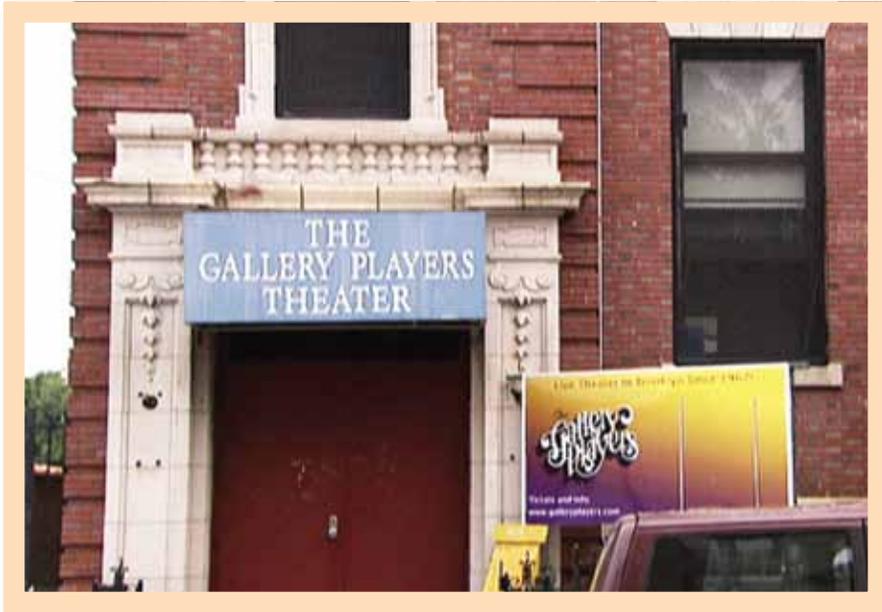
This is our theater.

This is where we perform our play.

First, we must rehearse the play.

These are the actors in the play.

They are holding their scripts.

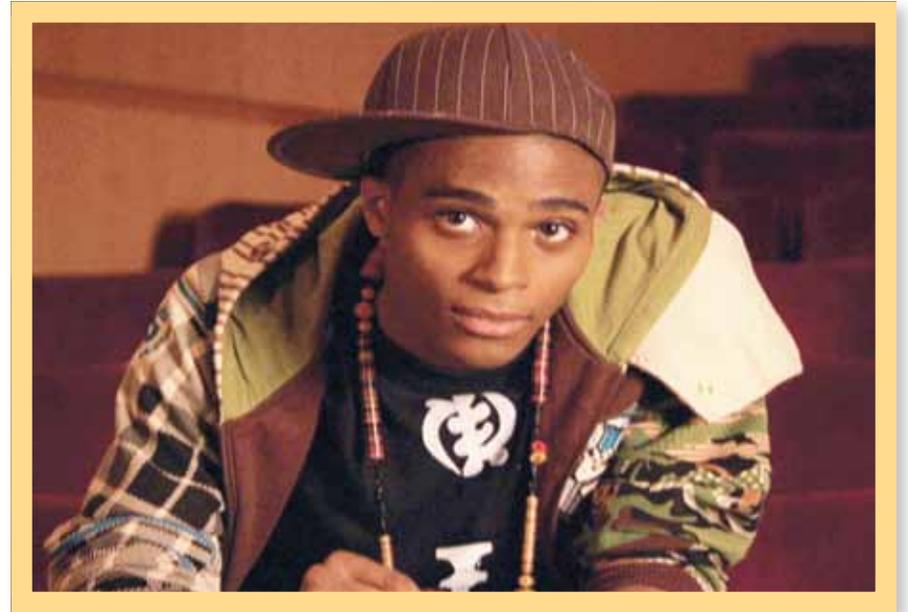It is the first day of rehearsal.

They ask,

"What is the play about?"

The play is about a difficult subject.

It is a story about a family.

It is a story about Billy's family.

This is Asad.

He is an actor.

He will play the part of Billy.

Billy is a young boy.

Billy is seven years old.

This is Erica.

She is an actress.

She will play the part of Billy's mother.

Billy's mother has a problem.

But, she doesn't tell anyone.

This is Abdul.

He is an actor.

He will play the part of Billy's grandfather.

He will wear glasses in the play.

This is Julie.

She is an actress.

She will play the part of Billy's aunt.

Billy's aunt is a nurse.

This is Renata.

She is an actress.

She will play the part of the police officer.

The police officer will help Billy's mother find a solution to her problem.

This is our main character.

She is a wife and a mother.

She has one son.

His name is Billy.

She also has a secret.

She is a victim of domestic violence.

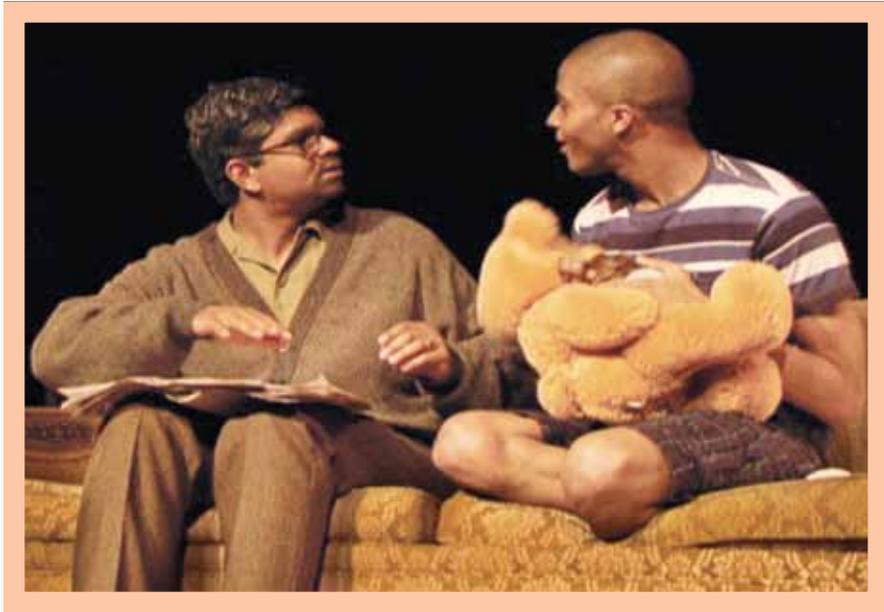Sometimes her husband gets angry.

Sometimes her husband hits her.

One day,
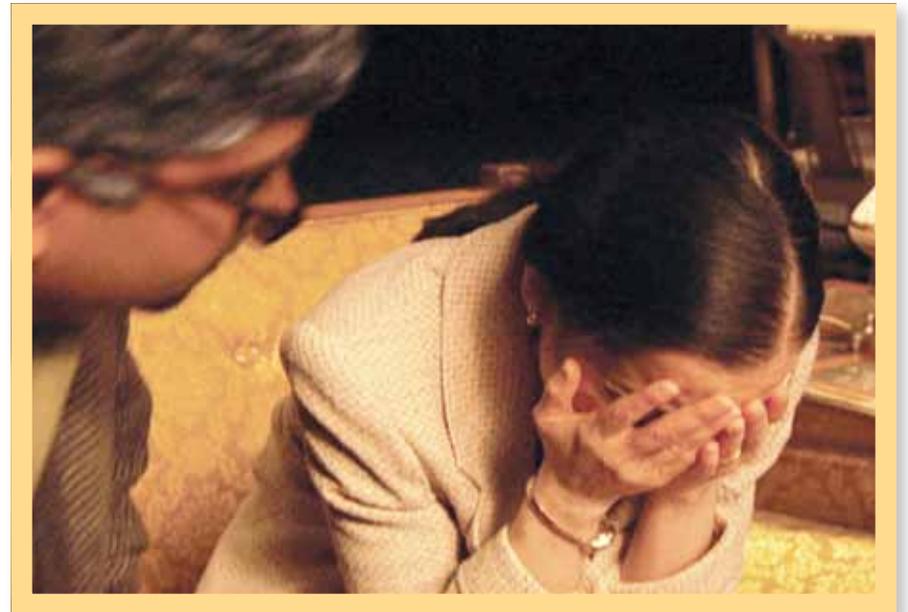her father-in-law asks her a question.

He asks,

"Is everything okay?"

At first, she doesn't want to talk about it.

She says,

"Don't worry about me.

I am just tired.

I am working overtime."

Billy's grandfather asks again.

"Billy says Daddy hits Mommy.

Is this true?

Is my son hitting you?"

Billy's mother cries.

She feels hopeless.

She is worried.

She doesn't have immigration papers.

She doesn't know what to do.
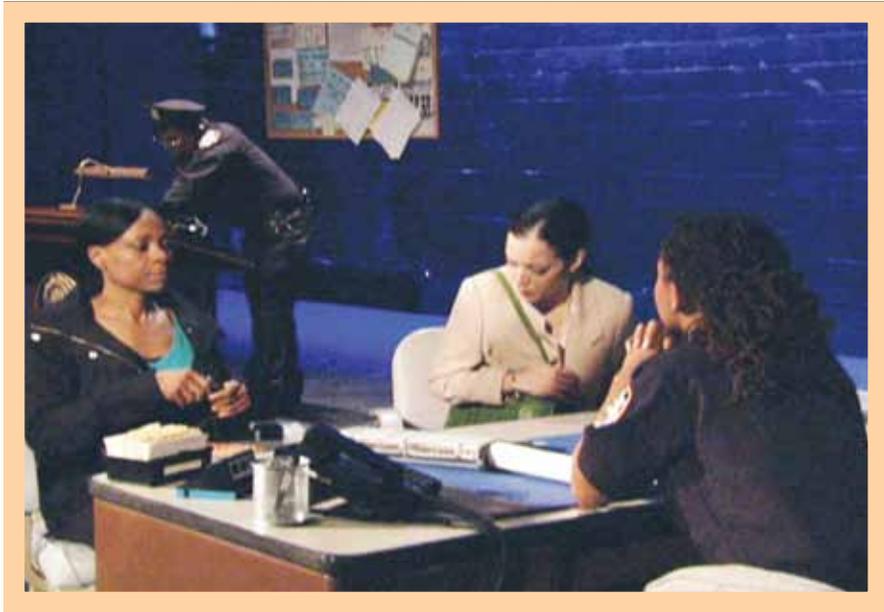
Billy's mother talks to her sister-in-law.

Her sister-in-law helps her.

She tells Billy's mother to call 311
for information about domestic violence.

311 is free.

311 will give Billy's mother information
about how to find help.

Billy's mother visits the police station
with her sister-in-law.

They talk to a police officer.

Billy's mother is afraid to use her name.

She says she has a *friend* with a problem.

The police officer explains that
domestic violence is a crime.

In New York City, everyone can get help.

The police officer says,

"You can tell your *friend* to come see me.

Domestic violence is a serious problem.

And, there are no easy answers."

Billy's mother makes a list of things she can do.

Here is what she learns…

Call 911 in an emergency.

You don't need papers to get help.

*Hospitals and police in New York City
do not ask for your immigration papers.*

*Hospitals and police in New York City
want everyone to be healthy and safe.*

The Domestic Violence Hotline
helps people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The number for the Domestic Violence Hotline is
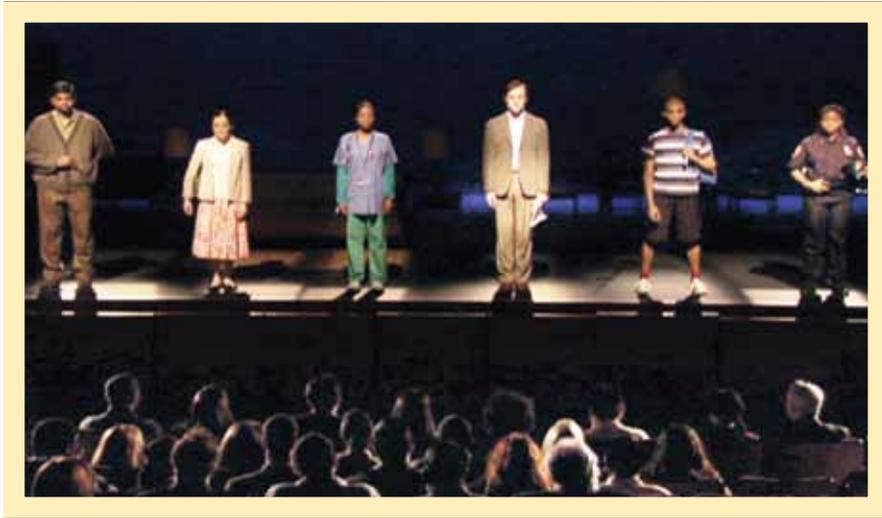*1-800-621-4673.*

The call is free.

311 can help you find a safe place to live.

311 can help you find emergency shelter.

311 can help you find a counselor.

A counselor is someone you can talk to
about your problems.

On opening night, the audience applauds.

They like our play.

We want everyone to know:

You are not alone.

You can get help.

Words used in this story

- actor, actress
- am, is, are
- answer
- applaud
- ask
- boy
- call
- can
- character
- come
- counselor
- cries (cry)
- crime
- director
- do, don't
- domestic violence
- emergency, emergency shelter
- explain
- family: aunt, daddy, father in-law, grandfather, husband, mommy, mother, sister-in-law, son, wife

- feel
- find
- friend
- get
- give
- glasses
- have, has
- help
- hit, hitting
- holding (hold)
- hospital
- hotline
- immigration papers
- information
- know
- learn
- like
- list
- live
- make
- must
- name
- nurse
- opening night
- overtime
- part
- perform
- place

- play
- police, police officer, police station
- problem
- question
- rehearse
- rehearsal
- say
- script
- secret
- see
- solution
- station
- stop
- subject
- talk
- telephone number
- tell
- theater, theater director
- use
- victim
- visit
- want
- wear
- working (work)
- worry
- writing (write)

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