A FIERCE KIND OF LOVE

THE UNTOLD STORY OF PENNSYLVANIA’S INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SOCIAL NARRATIVE OF THE PLAY
Welcome to the play called *A Fierce Kind of Love*.

There are 16 scenes that will tell you about the intellectual disability rights movement in Pennsylvania and how things have changed over time.

The play is based on real people and real events.

When you enter the theater, an actor may come up to you to ask you what you love.
The play begins when the actors begin to tell the audience what they love.

The actors will say what they love.

The actors will use sign language to say “I love”.

SCENE ONE
Scene 2 explains the beginnings of the intellectual disability rights movement in Pennsylvania.

Parents talk about the difficult decisions they had to make for their children.

Parents had to make decision on whether their children were to live at home or go to an institution.
Scene 3 tells how people used to refer to people with intellectual disabilities. Some of these words are hurtful.

Many of the words used in this part of the show are not the words people use today.
Scene 4 has a song about a girl who wears a flower in her hair. A girl dances to the song.
Scene 5 introduces Eleanor Elkin, an advocate for her child with a disability.

She is speaking with Gunnar Dybwad, an advocate for people with disabilities.
People with intellectual disabilities often had limited time with their families. The time they spent with their families included fun and smiles.

Scene 6 is expressed through dance. People with disabilities and their family members dance together in joy.
Scene 7 introduces you to Bill Baldini, a reporter for a Philadelphia television news station.

He investigates a place called Pennhurst

He tells the public about the living conditions at Pennhurst for people with disabilities.
Scene 8 shows Eleanor Elkins speaking with other parents.

The parents express their frustrations and difficult decisions they had to make.
Scene 9 introduces you to Leona Fialkowski and her daughter, Kate, who is 4 years old in the first part of the scene.

Leona talks about how she advocates for her son’s education at a school. Kate is listening and paying attention to what her mother is doing for her brother.

Later in this scene, Kate is grown up and remembers how parents and children were singing at the school.
Scene 10 starts with a song and a waltzing dance.

Kate thinks about her life and where she and her brother grew up.
Scene 11 introduces you to two sisters.

The sisters share memories.

Some memories are not happy memories.
Scene 12 introduces you to Roland Johnson. Roland is a self-advocate. He talks about speaking up for yourself.

The scene will get loud when the cast sings a rap song about who’s in charge of their lives.

The actors may come up to you to talk during this scene.
Scene 13 tells a historical timeline of the intellectual disabilities rights movement and the people who influenced the movement.
Scene 14 brings back Eleanor Elkins, the parent advocate. Eleanor and other parents tell you about the successes and continuing challenges in the disability rights movement.
Scene 15 is about being part of a family.
Scene 16, the last scene, is about doing things for yourself, doing things with others, asking for help, sharing your life with others, and not going through life alone.

The actors will show you how everyone is connected.