



**NEW YORK
THESPIANSSM**

**AN EDUCATIONAL THEATRE
ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE**

NY Thespians Festival 2019 BE THE CHANGE **Workshop Sign-Ups**

This year, all attendees are asked to pre-select workshops. All workshops are first come, first served, so make sure you sign up early! There are also some special workshops just for theater teachers. Please register online at <https://northeastthespians.caboodle.events>. Choose "2019 NY Thespians Festival" on the left. Click the green "register" button at the center of your screen. If you registered last year, you can just log in!

FRIDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 1, 12:50-2:05pm

MS/HS: Project Costuming

Presenter: Shirlee Idzadkovich

Description: We are going to work together to build costumes in class. Easy and fun learning exercises to make the most of you Costume shop. From start to stage, we will build out a character from a show and learn all the steps it takes to do it.

MS/HS: Mime. It's More Than Just the Box

Presenter: Steven Meeker

Description: In a fast-paced session of movement, train with an eleven year mime who has been trained by world renowned mimes Gregg Goldstein, Rick Wamer, Stephen Chipps, and Lorie Heald. You are guaranteed to learn more skills in mime illusions, clowning, physicality, group tableaux, spatial awareness, and acting. By the end you will make a short mime play, learn how to do "the box," and learn what to do with your hands on stage.

HS: Journey From Stage to Screen

Presenter: Richard Omar

Description: In this workshop discover the differences between acting in front of an audience and in front of the camera. Actors must be able to work in both mediums, but most lack any training in the fastest growing areas of our industry. What are an actor's responsibilities on-stage and on-set? How does direction differ? How do you prepare for your scenes without a director? What kinds of choices serve the material in each medium? Take this opportunity to find out about hitting your mark, tracking your continuity, adjusting to your frame, and keeping your performance alive in every take.

MS/HS: Finding Your Character in Yourself: Presence

Presenter: Jeff Applegate

Description: What makes a performance truly powerful? While elements of script and character analysis (breaking down beats, choosing powerful objectives, playing with tactics, etc.) are important, the magic of acting ultimately comes from YOU. In this workshop we'll focus on tapping into your own presence and personal energy, developing the connection, and finding ways to make it available in your work.

HS: Mindfulness, Breath, and Breathing for Actors

Presenter: Steve York

Description: By studying the work of Ellen Langer, professor of psychology at Harvard University, the philosophy of Alan Watts and the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, among others, this class delves into the practices of mindfulness, breath, awareness and the myriad of benefits it brings to the performer. In this course we will examine various breathing exercises, poses and posture, visualization practices, Neuro-linguistic programming exercises, and mindfulness meditation techniques and sequences from basic diaphragmatic breath, and projection to 15th century Hatha pranayama and the Wim Hof method.

HS: You are Not Alone: An Introduction to Acting

Presenter: Rytis Valiunas

Description: I will use different exercises with students to work on the basic skills of acting: focus, attention, listening and finding individuality in a group setting.

MS/HS: ACTivate Your SELF!

Presenter: Susan Pilar

Description: This acting workshop is designed to unlock and liberate the actor so they can work from an organic and truthful use of self. Guided through several techniques, the actor learns to free the entire instrument which will enable them to easily access their higher sense of truth, creativity and imagination.

MS/HS: Vocal Technique

Presenter: James Wetzel

Description: Learn various vocal techniques to enhance your singing quality.

HS: Acting Masterclass with The New Group/LIU-Brooklyn

Presenter: Mia Rovegno and Juan Carlos Salinas

Description: Join us for a look at college-level acting techniques, with renowned Off-Broadway company The New Group and master director/teacher Mia Rovegno. This will offer an introduction to the work in the new BFA acting studio of The New Group at LIU-Brooklyn.

TEACHERS: Visit Vendors

Presenter: Various

Description: Please take time to visit with our college and promotional vendors. Learn about programs, opportunities, and more!

FRIDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 2, 2:10-3:25pm**HS: Props for Non-Prop People**

Presenter: Jay Dockworth

Description: What is a prop? Where do you get props? This class will discuss what a prop is and why props is a crazy job with a lot of challenges and great rewards. You will come to understand how to be a better communicator creatively and how props work in a professional setting. There will be a Q&A at the end of the class.

MS/HS: Ten Minute Play Project

Presenter: Coni Koepfinger

Description: The Ten Minute Play Project is a workshop for any level student that wants to see a behind the scenes look at writing a play. Elements of dramatic writing emphasize plot and character and how the two interact from rising action, middle climax, then resolution.

HS: Intro to Long Form Improv

Presenter: Elana Fishbein

Description: In this Masterclass, participants will learn the foundational elements of Long Form Improv. Through exercises focusing on voice, emotion, and physicality students will be able create, refine, and bring back unique characters to create rich improvised pieces of theater.

MS/HS: Film, Television, Stage

Presenter: Pamela Joan Carter

Description: A rundown of the various ways to enter the Entertainment Industry, develop a network, market yourself and make good money while doing it. Basically, 'The Business of Being In The Business'.

MS/HS: Playbuilding

Presenter: Catherine del Castillo

Description: Participants will practice using their gifts in theatre creation to say something about the world they live in. This workshop will take participants through a series of improvisation and scene building exercises in

which they create theatre from their own,original ideas. Through the process of playbuilding, participants will interrogate their views and opinions on various social issues and be in dialogue with their peers.

MS/HS: Vocal Technique

Presenter: James Wetzel

Description: Learn various vocal techniques to enhance your singing quality.

MS/HS: Tapping into the Hidden Impulses in Your Writing

Presenter: Elaine Bromka

Description: How do you unearth those telling details that make your writing come alive? By getting out of your head! An unorthodox approach to writing – fun even for those who have never written before. Bring pen and paper/notebook, wear comfortable clothes– and park your self-judgment at the door!

HS: Diversity Casting: Know the Audition Rules and How to Break Them

Presenter: J. Elaine Marcos

Description: In this workshop, you will hear and see what Broadway Veteran J. Elaine Marcos did to book 10 Broadway shows and how she broke down the casting barriers by approaching auditions with a different perspective. This workshop applies to all disciplines and all ages.

HS: Tap Dance and the Groove Within You (you don't need shoes!)

Presenter: Sandra Kluge

Description: In this workshop we will use the tools of tap dance and body percussion to explore the unique music that plays within each of us. Movement and sound are inseparably connected, and a great way to get more in touch with our unique voice. Through tap and body percussion exercises, groove training, breathing exercises, and moving meditations we will dive deep into the vast world of movement and sound.

MS/HS: Illusions of Violence

Presenter: Jim Beauregard

Description: A basic Hand to Hand workshop-- Get a hands-on feel for the fundamentals of unarmed combat. Slap, kick, punch, or bite your buddy without leaving a mark.

MS/HS: Sound Design

Presenter: Kim Guzowski and Erica Stolz

Description: Join two members of the Technical Artisans Collective as they take you into the world of sound design. Learn how to use sound to enhance and enliven productions.

TEACHERS: Preparing Technical Support/PowerPoint Presentations for Shows

Presenter: Dr. Janelle Christine Simmons

Description: This Workshop will train teachers in the basics in regard to preparing technical visual aids that assist the audience throughout the show.

FRIDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 3, 4:05-5:20pm

MS/HS: Making Your Own Works: Devising!

Presenter: Sara Leone

Description: Leave the script behind and come explore different techniques for devising theatre and creating new works as an ensemble.

HS: Mindfulness, Breath, and Breathing for Actors

Presenter: Steve York

Description: By studying the work of Ellen Langer, professor of psychology at Harvard University, the philosophy of Alan Watts and the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, among others, this class delves into the practices of mindfulness, breath, awareness and the myriad of benefits it brings to the performer. In this course we will examine various breathing exercises, poses and posture, visualization practices, Neuro-linguistic programming exercises, and mindfulness meditation techniques and sequences from basic diaphragmatic breath, and projection to 15th century Hatha pranayama and the Wim Hof method.

HS: Musical Theatre Audition Technique

Presenter: Joey Zangardi-Dixon

Description: Working with shortcuts, this workshop will focus on Acting a Song from a "Audition/Casting" perspective. Learn the essential tools to a successful audition while making a lasting impression. Having worked in casting, as an agent, and hosting countless auditions, my goal is to ensure that the performer is approaching their song as an actor and a storyteller. * I am looking for volunteers - please bring musical theatre backing tracks on your phone.

HS: The Discovery of Self in the Field of Acting

Presenter: Rytis Valiunas

Description: Based on my own training (7 years full-time acting training done in Europe and the U.S.) I will conduct individual and pair exercises based on the teachings of Konstantin Stanislavsky and Sanford Meisner. The goal - to help students understand what it means to be unique and original without "performing".

MS/HS: Preparing Technical Support/PowerPoint Presentations for Shows

Presenter: Dr. Janelle Christine Simmons

Description: This Workshop will train students in the basics in regard to preparing technical visual aids that assist the audience throughout the show.

MS/HS: Formulating Your First Film

Presenter: Cindy Mitch

Description: Crash course on getting into indie filmmaking

MS/HS: Dynamic Blocking for Directors and Designers

Presenter: Ola Krazpulska

Description: Have you ever wondered how the set design influences the blocking of a show? This workshop will provide an opportunity for directors and designers to collaborate together, adjusting furniture and item placement based on the needs discovered both when studying an initial ground plan and getting a scene up on its feet.

HS: Acting Masterclass with The New Group/LIU-Brooklyn

Presenter: Mia Rovegno and Juan Carlos Salinas

Description: Join us for a look at college-level acting techniques, with renowned Off-Broadway company The New Group and master director/teacher Mia Rovegno. This will offer an introduction to the work in the new BFA acting studio of The New Group at LIU-Brooklyn.

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TEACHERS: Reinvigorating Your Spark: Building the Program of Your Dreams While Avoiding Burnout

Presenter: Lindsay Kujawa

Description: Everyday we are running ourselves ragged. As theatre teachers we are often in before the sun rises and out long after it sets. We also likely lack the support and funding of many other programs and seem to have endless red tape to navigate. Each day is a battle against burnout, and we have to win. For our students, our families and ourselves. In this workshop Lindsay will walk you through how to (healthily) build the program of your dreams through creating a four year plan, how to select shows that will engage, challenge and excite your audiences... all while avoiding burn out.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 4, 9-10:15am

MS/HS: Write Now! Begin Your Next Great Play

Presenter: Jason Pizzarello

Description: Struggling to get started with a play or can't quite reach the end? Have no fear. Come conquer the blank page together with playwright and teaching artist Jason Pizzarello. Everyone will learn how to use creative exercises to kick-start a script and explore core story building blocks: character, conflict, structure, dialog, dramatic action, and theatricality. Bring paper and a pen – walk away with inspired new ideas.

MS/HS: Produce an Improv Show at Your School!

Presenter: Jim Hoare

Description: Produce a fast-paced, user-friendly school Improv Show with minimum risk. Receive guidelines, show rules, marketing tips, and numerous game lists from someone who has produced over 100 HS Improv Shows. Improv helps with creativity and spontaneity, and develops confidence and a sense of humor. It emphasizes cooperation and teamwork, and it trains actors to enjoy rather than fear taking risks. Improv Shows can also provide additional revenue for your Theatre Dept.

HS: Stronger Auditions Through the 12 Guideposts

Presenter: Michael Kaplan

Description: An introduction to Michael Shurtleff's 12 Guideposts, a surefire method of scene/monologue preparation for active, engaging auditions.

HS: Stage to Screen and the Technique In-Between

Presenter: Nina Wray

Description: On-camera technique is a necessary skill for actors wishing to have a sustainable career. This workshop will introduce students to the basics of on-camera acting. We will discuss the similarities and differences between stage performance and on-camera acting techniques. The ultimate goal is to become a versatile and adaptable storyteller. Through discussion and play, participants will learn how to meet this objective within each medium.

MS/HS: Viewpoints for Performers: Creative Physical Solutions to Staging and Text Interpretation

Presenter: Kathy Morath

Description: Using the seven Viewpoints, as codified by theatre artist Anne Bogart, we will explore space, tempo, architecture, duration and other applications for total immersion in physical reality. By utilizing new tools for exploration and "group mind" activity, fresh perspective and process will help young performers find creative solutions to theatrical challenges in acting, singing, and dance applications. Wear loose clothing and comfortable footwear.

MS/HS: Writing Your Own Monologue Through Clown

Presenter: Michael Freeman

Description: Students will use specific clown character exercises to create an original monologue to use in their acting classes.

MS/HS: Acing the Callback

Presenter: Andrea Marano

Description: We will discuss how to stand out in a call-back, cold-reads, dance callbacks, and ways to prepare.

MS/HS: Individual Events (I.E.s)

Presenter: Various

Description:

- Monologue 1
- Musical Solo 1
- Technical 1
- Stage Management
- Musical Duet/Group

SATURDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 5, 10:20-11:35am

MS/HS: You've Got the Power. Create!

Presenters: Lindsay Kujawa

Description: Have you ever wanted to create something but have been told you can't because you're "too young" or "don't know what you're doing"? Don't let the nay-sayers keep you from creating your dream AND showcasing it to the world. At 19, Lindsay Kujawa founded her own theatre company, and went on to write over 7 original works that played to thousands of people over 7 years. Now she wants to help you achieve your dreams. Your age is an obstacle but not a barrier. Let's find (practical) ways to get your work out there and seen.

MS/HS: Commedia Masks and You

Presenters: Jay Pecora

Description: This workshop is a hands-on introduction to the ways an actor can use commedia dell'arte masks to construct a character. Participants should come dressed to move as this work can be quite physical. Everyone will have the opportunity to wear a mask and see where their creativity leads them.

HS: Introduction to Theatre of the Oppressed

Presenter: Nicholas Linnhann

Description: Students will get an introduction to Augusto Boal's theater of the oppressed techniques and Forum Theatre. Students will receive a brief history of this form of theater and a hands on visceral experience.

MS/HS: Write an Original Play or Musical with a Social Voice

Presenter: Jim Hoare

Description: Aspiring composers, lyricists and book writers will explore the process of creating an original work that might initiate a change.

Topics will include:

- Finding a story to tell
- Clearing source material
- Structuring your story
- Assembling a creative team

MS/HS: Silent Storytelling

Presenter: Savannah Knechel

Description: A combination of Mask, Viewpoints, and Lecoq to explore ways of theatrical storytelling that are not text based.

MS/HS: Digital Stories to TV

Presenter: Caleb Davis

Description: We will break down the process of creating digital shorts. This will help artist to find other areas to express their talents.

HS: Intro to Stage Management

Presenter: Renee Schubert

Description: What is a stage manager and why are they important to the world of theatre? More often than not we are not offered the education in the art of stage management in our high school drama programs. Stage management is a complex and unique art form within the theatre world and we are going to dive in to talk about how to excel as a stage manager.

MS/HS: Individual Events (I.E.s)

Presenter: Various

Description:

- Monologue 2
- Musical Solo 2
- Technical 2
- Short Film
- Acting Duet/Group

SATURDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 6, 12:45-2pm

MS/HS: Commedia Masks and You

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HS: I Got the Part-- Now What?

Presenter: Jake Cullens

Description: You nailed the audition and you got the part. You're busy working on your memorization, but what can you do away from rehearsal to really mine the depths of your script? This workshop will examine script analysis in detail; showing you methods including beat analysis, understanding operatives, and using action verbs. Return to rehearsal with an arsenal of acting choices. Bring something to write with.

MS/HS: Looking at Shakespeare

Presenter: Bill Atwood and Joe Norton

Description: This class will introduce students to the playwright William Shakespeare. Students will learn iambic pentameter, stage combat skills (both armed and unarmed), as well as how to use Shakespeare's inner direction with regard to using different rhythms and shared lines.

HS: Introducing Stage Dialects

Presenter: Becca Barrett

Description: A taste of the study of Dialects for the Stage - why is it important to hone your dialect skills as an actor and how can you be prepared for anything? We will be covering the basics of how to learn and apply a dialect through the lens of Standard RP (British), giving participants a taste of what it means to dive into to a new way of speaking.

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TEACHERS: Thespians Turns 90 and Other EdTA Updates!

Presenter: Hans Weichhart

Description: Join the CRO (Chief Relationship Officer) for the Educational Theatre Association! Find out what's happening for Thespians' 90th Birthday, learn about scholarships and other opportunities for both teachers and students, and take part in an open forum to discuss new ideas and initiatives.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP SESSION 7, 2:05-3:20pm

MS/HS: Auditioning for Film and TV

Presenters: Shara Ashley Zeiger

Description: In this workshop, I'll bring sides and we'll go over practical auditioning techniques for working in film/tv. We'll record mock auditions using their own phones and students will be able to go home with their footage of what they learned.

HS: Breaking Down Shakespeare

Presenter: Sarah Bedwell

Description: The purpose of this workshop is to aid high school students in understanding and breaking down the language of Shakespeare. In 75 minutes, we will tackle iambic pentameter, character tropes and style. We will study tips and tricks used by The Globe, Royal Shakespeare Company, and other influential Shakespearean production companies.

HS: Intro to Stage Management

Presenter: Renee Schubert

Description: What is a stage manager and why are they important to the world of theatre? More often than not we are not offered the education in the art of stage management in our high school drama programs. Stage management is a complex and unique art form within the theatre world and we are going to dive in to talk about how to excel as a stage manager.

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Presenter: Savannah Knechel

Description: A combination of Mask, Viewpoints, and Lecoq to explore ways of theatrical storytelling that are not text based.

HS: Cold Readings: The Six Audition Tools

Presenter: Chris Giordano

Description: Students will learn cold reading audition techniques and how to apply "the Six Audition tools" as a checklist way to help them prepare for audition sides. They will be provided feedback on cold readings, followed by a Q&A about auditioning in New York.

TEACHERS: Advocacy for All

Presenter: Lindsay M. Shields

Description: This hands-on workshop will give you the tools you need to advocate for your program, whether at a school, state, or national level. You will walk away with an advocacy plan that you and your students can implement tomorrow!