

PA Thespian Conference – December, 2013

WORKSHOPS

TROUPE DIRECTORS:

Gather student input and **determine how many tickets are needed** for each workshop, per session. Please understand that some will fill quickly, so students should have alternate choices in mind.

No more than 10% of your delegation may select a workshop on a day. (If you have 30 students, you may only select 3 tickets maximum per session.) If a workshop is offered more than once, you may select 3 tickets for additional sessions.

-All students should **fill their 90 minute time slot** – either with 2 x 45 minute workshops, 1 x 90 minute workshop, or as an audience member (ie. Saturday early afternoon – to watch showcases in the auditorium or IE's in the black box). Schools performing an evening mainstage are excused from the late afternoon session each day so that they can set up.

-Requests for workshops are handled on a **first-come basis**. You may submit your requests ahead of time, if emailed to Melissa Mintzer, Workshop Coordinator by 10:00 pm on Wednesday, December 4th. Or bring your request to the registration table upon arrival on Thursday, and we'll process them in the order they are received.

-Our goal is to distribute **admission tickets** to each troupe as quickly as possible. (If emailed by Wed evening, you'll receive your tickets at the registration table when you arrive on Thursday.) As you distribute the tickets to students, have them put their tickets in the back of their name badge for safe-keeping – **everyone must have a ticket to enter a workshop** – this is the only way we can be fair to all troupes, and to ensure that we do not exceed the enrollment limits requested by the presenters.

-We have tried to make this information as up-to-date and accurate as possible. In the event of cancellations or changes, troupe directors may stop by the registration table to exchange tickets as needed. Specific room assignments will be made available at the conference.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

A Light in the Darkness: Dramatic Lighting

Dakota Jordan, Penn Manor HS

Learn techniques about mood lighting on stage, and how to not only highlight but accent what's happening on stage. Discussion will also include how to induce emotional responses with lighting.

Acting a Song

Mark Wade, Arcadia University

Is it enough to sign the notes right or is there more? Working with an accompanist we will work through a section of your song to try to take it to the next level. If you take this workshop, you will be expected to sing, no lurkers allowed.

Acting Shakespeare

Wayne S. Turney, DeSales University

A practical approach to the Bard's words and action.

Actor's Toolbox: Acting the Monologue**Christina McGovern, Ridley HS**

Students will bring and work on a particular monologue, concentrating on turning analysis into performance. Students should come with a basic understanding of the play from which they have selected their monologue, a printed version of the text of the monologue, and preliminary information about their character.

Actor's Toolbox: Acting the Song**Christina McGovern, Ridley HS**

Students will work on analyzing and performing a particular song from a musical. Students should bring the song text printed out, accompaniment in the form of a cd, and background information on the show from which the song was selected and the character that is singing.

Analyzing Your Character: What Playwrights Want Actors to Know**Arthur M. Jolly, YouthPLAYS**

Interpreting the text to discover the range of a character for plays, monologues and auditions.

Audition Workshop/ Acting Workshop**Ben Hodge, Ben Hodge Studios & Central York HS**

The workshop will focus on audition preparation, performance and practice. Actors will learn how to improve confidence, evaluate their presence before, during and after their auditions. Actors will present monologues or sides for critique and workshopping.

Audition: Musical Theatre**Rob Gretta, Indiana University of PA**

Prepare yourself and your music to show off your best in auditions. Topics include personal presentation, music preparation and repertoire (a.k.a. your "book"). Participants should be prepared with their best 16-bars of a musical theater selection to be coached in front of the group.

Auditions: Truth or Myth**Mark Wade, Arcadia University**

When you are auditioning or after an audition have you ever asked yourself the following? What am I supposed to do in an audition?" "What do they want to see?" "How can I prove to them that I am the 'right', the 'best', 'talented enough?', "What do I do when I am asked to read material I have not had time to prepare?" "What does it mean when I don't get cast? Or if I do?" In this workshop, we will work on three or four short monologues and talk about the process. This session will be especially useful if you are planning to pursue theater at college or beyond.

Building Character**Jody Reppert, Wilson HS**

Students will share techniques and participate in activities that will help create interesting characters. Beginning scene work will be explored.

College Life at Penn State**Penn State University**

This workshop will be led by a team of Penn State, Undergraduate, Design & Technology Students.

Cor Blimey: The Cockney Dialect**Stacey Cabaj, University of Pittsburgh**

Students will learn the basic of the Cockney Dialect in this interactive, phonetics-free workshop. Participants will leave with two dialect monologues and resources for further study. No experience required.

Costuming on a Budget**Pam Vasillow, Susquehannock HS**

Converting Thrift Store Clothing

Creating the Show Program**Mrs. Felicia Browell, Troupe #2528**

Layout work and templates for creating your own theatre programs.

The Creative Spirit**Jelli Vezzosi, Temple University Theatre student**

Explore the world around you with a different set of eyes. This workshop will engage students with improv to help them think outside of the box.

Dance: Production Number**Jaimie Geddes, Bensalem HS Troupe #5417**

In this two part workshop, you will learn valuable dance audition skills that will culminate in a performance at the end of the conference. Sharpen your skills in picking up choreography quickly and accurately. Participants must be present for both 90 minute sessions (Friday & Saturday late afternoon).

Dance Spatter: Famous Choreography for Student Dancers**Stephanie & Kristen Azzarano, Ridley HS**

Students will sign up to learn a dance combination that includes several different signature styles of well-known choreographers. Students will learn about the big names in the biz, while using their dance skills to perfect a routine.

Dancing for Two Left Feet**Ms. Sara LaMars, Troupe #2528**

Common musical dance steps for beginners. Students will learn the steps and do a small routine for practice.

Design & Technical Theatre as a Career**Penn State University**

This workshop will be offered by a multidisciplinary team of Penn State Design and Technology Faculty.

Devising Theatre**Kellee Van Aken, Seton Hill University**

In this workshop we will devise short performances based on found text, music and improvisation

Enhancing Characters Through Costuming**Claire Shubert, Troupe #6987**

Part hands-on, demo, and lecture. How to enhance one's character through costume and make-up.

Everyone's the Hero of their Own Story: Expressing the Internal Motivations of Your Characters**James Marsh, Troupe #5029**

This interactive workshop focuses on strategies that actors and directors can use to find and develop the internal needs and motivations of their characters. These strategies will focus on text analysis, repetition, and vocal strategies as tools for character work. We will work to explore how characters view themselves and those around them and how these views create conflict.

Fearless Scenario Acting**Brian Jones, Indiana University of PA**

Participants will be given a scenario from which to fearlessly create action in order to show the story. Based on the Italian tradition of Commedia Dell Arte (but not in the style--that takes YEARS to master), we will throw ourselves into fearlessly creating action, and then play with adaptations when circumstances change.

The Five Minute Process: An Actor's Guide to Fool Proof Auditioning

Marion O'Wood Sullivan, Fulton Theatre

Every professional actor needs to be able think on their feet and produce compelling and believable performances in a matter of minutes. In "The Five Minute Process" workshop, students will learn the key areas to address in their acting choices to nail the piece and get the part!

Getting Started in the Profession

Wayne S. Turney, DeSales University

Do's and Don'ts of Getting a Foothold in Professional Theatre by someone with more than 40 years on the boards.

"God I Hope I Get It!": Nailing Your Musical Theatre Audition

Samantha Riesenber, Upper Dublin, Troupe #5900

Students will learn how to better prepare for singing in auditions, including analyzing music and lyrics, acting the song, selecting and preparing the music, and understanding audition techniques. Volunteers will sing individually and will work on a 16 or 32 bar cut of a song, so please bring sheet music and/or CDs with the accompaniment. Music doesn't need to be memorized or performance ready. Come ready to have fun and work hard! Students will gain a valuable set of audition tools for their future in musical theatre.

Guided Imagery / Relaxation

Tracey Krause, Harry S. Truman HS

Visualization/meditation for the actor

Hack & Slash Costuming – Make It Work!

Angela D. Hoerner, North Penn HS

Explore the art of seeing beyond the obvious and creating fabulous, appropriate costumes from thrift store finds. Repurpose, Recycle, Reuse

I Wanna Be a Producer...The Art of Selling It

Jimmy Knowles, Upper Dublin HS

The workshop will teach students how to produce the school musical- working with how to write a press release, create a video, poster, etc.

IE & Audition Enhancement

Lori Steel Naglak, Council Rock South HS

IE and Audition enhancement thru video play back correction. Monologues, solo performances vocal, dance and Duets. This is a good time to rehearse your IE's please bring in an audition piece you are currently working on I will have some cold copy script on hand. If you are using a song please bring your cd accompaniment. (class size should be limited to 20 to 25 give each student about 3 mins.)

Improv and the Working Actor

Anthony Reimer, NY Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts

This workshop explores the growing demand for Improvisation in all mediums. Film, Television and Theatre. No longer is Improv reserved for Whose Line is it Anyway? It's becoming an industry standard. Learn the tools necessary to think on your feet and book that commercial, that role in a feature film, or simply hone your skills to think fast. Taught by a professional improviser who has worked the improv scene all over the United States, including Chicago, New York and Los Angeles.

Improv for Beginners

Roseann Enwright & Lauren Deery, Troupe #88079

If you are interested in improv and never have done it before, this is the workshop for you. This session will take you through some basic improv games that are meaningful and fun to the young actor. If you enjoy theater games, this is the workshop for you!

Improv Games**Jamie Bradley, Pennridge HS**

Improv Games - Improve your improv skills with a variety of games

Improv: Learning to Say Yes**Phil Winters, Point Park University**

Improvisational workshop

Intelligent Theatrical Lighting**Matt DeMascolo, Production Express, Inc.**

A look into how moving lights, LED fixtures and intelligent control can transform the look of your show and open new possibilities.

Intro to Longform Improv**Michael Schwartz, Indiana University of PA**

Introduction to building foundations of improvised scenes and short plays, including small group and partner exercises, emotional workouts, character work, warm-ups and games. Students will be introduced to the goal of, in improv guru Del Close's words, "building the plane while it's flying."

Landing the Role**Anthony Reimer, NY Conservatory for Dramatic Arts**

In this dynamic on your feet workshop we explore the keys to landing the role in anything, anywhere. Whether you want the lead in the school play, to get accepted to the college of your dreams, or book the lead in a feature film this is the insider information you need to know. Taught by a professional actor who has worked in theatre, television and film in both NY and LA this is the chance to see what it REALLY takes to land the role!

Leadership Workshop with the STO**Andrea Roney & Jill Campbell, PA State Board Members**

Workshops for current Thespian troupe student leaders and those running for STO with current STO and ITO liaison to develop competency and understanding of the goals and skills needed for effective leadership. All STO candidates running for 2013-2014 Board MUST attend. Current leaders and/or designated voting representative for each troupe attending the Conference are invited to all three workshops. The Final workshop must be attended by the designated voting representative from each troupe to vote for the new 2013-2014 STO.

Making the Musical Choice**Richard Miller, Jr., Troupe #88079**

All Thespians are told to make choices on stage. Now it is time to make choices using the music. Stop imitating what you hear on a recording and start making musical choices based on what is on the page. Be prepared to use your voice in this session.

Mixing the Musical: Hands On**Curtis Craig, Penn State University**

This workshop will be offered by Curtis Craig, freelance sound & media designer, and head of the BFA Sound Design program at Penn State University.

Movement for the Actor**Jacki Small & Kristin Hannings, Troupe #2267**~~Students will learn to make their bodies neutral so they can take on other characters. Warm-up activities including yoga, visualization, and breathing will be addressed.~~ CANCELLED ALL SESSSIONS**Movement for the Actor (Laban)****Debra Buckner, North Penn HS**

We will be exploring Laban's 8 basic efforts. How can you build a character from your movement choices?

No Fear Shakespeare

Mark Wade, Arcadia University

Afraid of Shakespeare? Daunted by iambic pentameter and thee's and thou's? In this workshop we will explore Shakespearean text so you might start to understand and love the language. You can come with something you would like to work on or I will have some material we can unravel together. We will start by understanding why the language is there, what opportunities it gives to you the actor) and move onto how the sounds of the words can help you reach the intention of the character.

Performance IE's – Saturday 1:00-2:30 (Performers do not need tickets)

Anyone who is interested in viewing these performances needs to have a ticket for admission. This will fill your 90 minute workshop session – tickets are required because space for seating is limited.

Playwriting Jumpstart: Writing Great Plays...Fast!

Jonathan Dorf, YouthPLAYS

Want to write a play but don't know where to begin? This workshop will give you all the tools you need to start writing—right away.

Author of more than 40 published plays with over 1000 productions worldwide, including *4 A.M.*, *After Math*, *Harry's Hotter at Twilight*, *Just Add Zombies*, *The Locker Next 2 Mine* and *Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet*, Jonathan Dorf co-founded publisher YouthPLAYS, co-chairs the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights and is resident playwriting expert for Final Draft. He has served as Visiting Associate Professor in the MFA Playwriting and Children's Lit programs at Hollins University and as US Cultural Envoy to Barbados. He holds a BA in Dramatic Writing and Literature from Harvard University and an MFA in Playwriting from UCLA.

Poetry Alive

Dorothea Hackett, DuBois Area HS

Students read poems and bring them to life with actions.

Production Number

Nick Picknally, Springfield HS

A choreographed production number to be performed in the closing ceremonies

Revitalize your Troupe

Kimberly Staples, EdTA Representative

Does your troupe need to find that spark again? Grow your numbers and fan those flames. Excited, enthusiastic, focused Thespians can ignite great change in your program! Let's explore together how you can rejuvenate your troupe.

The Right Light for the Right Area

This workshop will be offered by Charles Blymier, Junior, Sound & Lights / Design & Technology Student, School of Theatre, Penn State University.

Romeo & Juliet and LOLs Well Whatevs: Find the FUN in Shakespeare

Chris Hults, Penn State University & Troupe #5029

This is not your English teacher's Shakespeare. Before he was a poet, he was an ACTOR so we are going to explore The Bard ON OUR FEET! We will send you home with the tools you need to understand, perform, and love Shakespeare.

Script Writing

Patricia Yost, Pennridge HS

How do you get started? Best way to write dialogue, set directions and more.

Short Form Improv Games

Jacob Hauser, Troupe #2651

Learn and create short form improv games.

Showcase Events – Saturday 1:00 -2:30

Please request the appropriate number of tickets (exempt from the 10% rule) for anyone in your delegation who is either performing in a showcase event, or plans to be an audience member in the auditorium to watch the showcase events.

Singular Sensation: Writing the Monologue

Jonathan Dorf, YouthPLAYS

From *Hamlet*'s immortal "To be or not to be" to the *Zoo Story*'s "story of Jerry and the dog," monologues give actors moments to shine, and audiences often remember them long after the applause has died. Whether you're a playwright who wants to take your play to the next level or an actor looking to create your own material, this workshop will help you write that memorable monologue—right now.

Stage & Production Management

Matthew Miller, Temple University

This workshop will cover all areas of stage and production management from organization, paperwork, communication, safety, and budgeting. There will be lecture format, Q&A, and interactive elements. Students will learn things that they can immediately take back to their productions.

Stage Combat

Hester Kamin, Bucks County Playhouse

Basic hand to hand combat. Limited to 20 students.

Stage Management 101

Kim Martin, Point Park University

Get an overview of everything involved in professional stage management. It is much different from high school. Find out why stage managers make so much money!

Technical Portfolio Prep

John Greth, Troupe #439

How to create and review of technical theatre portfolios

Techniques of Improvisation

Bellefonte HS, Drama Club Officers

Students will learn the art of improvisation through exciting exercises and team building activities.

Theatre From Art

Cynthia Berg, Troupe #2528

Using two dimensional art, students will create scenes based on the circumstance and characters in the paintings.

Theatre Rigging Tips and Tricks

Eric Rouse, Penn State University

This workshop will introduce you to the fundamentals of Theatrical Rigging. Presented by Eric Rouse, Head of the BFA and MFA programs in Scenic Technology at Penn State University.

Theatrical Shenanigans (Games)

Bellefonte HS, Drama Club Officers

Learn fun and exciting drama games and show/rehearsal warm ups during this action packed session.

Thornton Wilder's "Our Town"

Sandy Chantry, Council Rock North HS

A discussion of Wilder's Pulitzer-prize winning piece and its place in the American theatre.

Top 10 Skills of a Stage Manager

Anmarie Duggan, University of Pittsburgh

We will explore the skills and needed to successfully execute a production from auditions to closing night.

Troupe Traditions**Heather Bonanno, Troupe #185**

Want to start some more traditions within your troupe? Come and share ideas with members of other troupes, and learn a song and dance routine to end your theatre season with! Each school will receive access to the song that we will be learning.

Video Puppetry & Character Voices**Lori Steel Naglak, Council Rock South HS**

We will work on hand placement and speech/ hand connection as well as character voices appropriate for different style puppets. Each student will select a puppet from 25 to 30 Muppet style hand puppets to work with during the class. This class is fun to watch during the play back session. Class is divided into skits and story's told thru puppetry

Viewpoints**Lane Savadove, Rowan University**

Viewpoints is the most influential cutting-edge training technique in colleges and professionally. It trains the actors to listen to the world around them and then to follow their physical impulses as a way towards greater truth and greater use of the body in performance. Savadove is one of the country's master teachers in this technique and runs the acting program at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. Come in clothes appropriate for movement.

Visual Improvisation for Designers**Karen Glass, Seton Hill University**

In this workshop we will explore the ways that text and music can inspire design choices and then get out the art supplies! We will experiment with individual and collaborative creations.

Voice Over & Commercials**Lori Steel Naglak, Council Rock South HS**

30 second commercial and voice over copy is used to illustrate common voice over and commercial tricks used in recording studios. Each student is recorded and played back. Commercial acting and voice over are a great way to stay in the acting business and still make some money.

Warm Up & Improv**Dorothea Hackett, DuBois Area HS**

Learn/share some warm up activities and improv techniques/games that work for you.

Well Met!**Kimberly Staples, EdTA Representative**

Does planning a year of troupe meetings sound daunting? (Or are you running around trying to gather students and supplies, hoping that it all comes together?) Come and explore ways to look forward to those meetings! And get used to having troupe meetings that no one wants to leave!

Who Am I Now?**Vickie Fuller, Pennwood MS & Pennsbury HS**

Tired of being cast as the same character? Come learn some tricks for creating a variety of characters in body and voice.

Whose Line Is It Anyway? (Games)**Sally Vogel, Pennridge HS**

Have fun with Improv Games from the TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Includes: Scenes from a Hat, Props, Questions Only and more

Your (Naked) Body as a Costume**Jason Thomas Mayfield**

Learn the crazy reason people stand, walk, and carry themselves the way they do. What does how you stand say about you? How can you use that to create a completely unique character? Analyze yourself and your friends. Come prepared to move around. Sorry, no one actually gets naked.