

Theater of Possibility: Celebrating Neurodiversity

Adult Master Class



Come Explore the Possibilities

Theater of Possibility ("TOP") explores relationship skills through acting, improvisation and collaboration. Normally offered for youth, this weekend intensive Master Class is geared toward teachers, therapists and other adults who want to learn a valuable technique for enhancing communication skills and fostering meaningful inclusion. We'll cover TOP's particular application of drama therapy and acting techniques to young people with disabilities, particularly autism spectrum. The workshop will guide participants through a typical 12 week curriculum, culminating in a final sharing for an invited audience.

- Imaginative, playful and non-didactic
- Theater activities designed to highlight relationships skills, such as experience sharing, social referencing, nonliteral thinking, perspective taking, flexibility, collaboration and leadership.
- Techniques from Augusto Boal's *Theater of the Oppressed*, including:
 - Image Theater (sculpting images with our bodies to represent thoughts and feelings)
 - Forum Theater or "Come Step in my Shoes" (role play different solutions to a conflict)
 - Rainbow of Desire (exploring the "rainbow" of emotions in a given situation)
 - Cop in the Head (hearing and responding to internal criticism)
- Easily adapted to the living room or classroom
- Breakout sessions to discuss adaptations for different ages and functional abilities.



- Who:** Teachers, Therapists, Counselors, Students, Parents and Adults with Asperger's/Autism Spectrum or other ability differences. Participants must be able to participate independently in structured group activities and should feel comfortable talking about disabilities.
- When:** Fri-Sun June 3-5, 2016. Fri: 6-9PM, Sat: 10AM-5 PM, Sun: 10AM-4PM (plus showcase 5:30-7:30)
- Where:** George Center for Community, 2212 NE 125th Street, Seattle, WA 98125
- Fee:** \$195 (or pay what you can)
- How:** For registration, contact Lauren at (206) 320-0570 or Lauren@LaurenMarshall.com

Rehearsal for living

The real triumph for me was watching Alex. Thought you'd like to know that he has had an INTENSE fear of speaking or even appearing in front of other people. When he was stage manager in high school he would even refuse to be acknowledged on stage at the end of a performance. I cried through his entire performance. He even improvised - pure magic!

- Jonibeth Whitney, mother of a 20 year old TOP actor

[My son's] mental rigidity has given way to flexibility and a new found ability to function within a group. His self-esteem is soaring and the class has become an anchor for life. He marveled aloud that "Lauren could bring together such different kinds of kids and have us get along so well."

- Susan Moffitt, mother of a 17 year old TOP actor.

It lets you be differently expressive in your abilities.

- TOP actor

[W]hat this weekend gave me was the chance to look at my program anew and try to find a new direction to take them. Like you, my initial idea was to give these children a social skills class, and just like you I've found that I don't need to teach them. They have plenty to say and to teach me. I feel rejuvenated by this experience and I'm looking forward to moving my class forward in a new way now.

- Crista Kempisty, educator and parent



Lauren Goldman Marshall (founding director) has worked as a Seattle playwright & theater director since the late 1980s. She served as co-artistic & producing artistic director of Seattle Public Theater for five years in the late 1990s, where she worked with youth through SPT's acclaimed Theater of Liberation program. Her award-winning plays & musicals have been produced nationally and include the hit Seattle revue *Waiter, There's a Slug in My Latté*. She was chosen to develop new musicals in the 5th Avenue Theatre's 2013-15 Writer's Group. She has degrees from Stanford (BA, JD) and NYU (MFA).

Theater of Possibility uses techniques adapted from Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed. His methods are used around the world for social activism, community-building, therapy and education. For information on upcoming youth programs please visit www.LaurenMarshall.com



This master workshop is being produced with assistance from [Silver Kite Community Arts](#).

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Application pending for Washington State Educator Clock Hours — please inquire