

# Theater of Possibility

Rehearsing social skills through acting and improv



Come explore the possibilities!

Are you a budding writer, aspiring actor or closeted comedian? Do you like to invent characters or stories? Would you like to follow your imagination to see where it might lead? Perhaps meet some friends along the way? Theater of Possibility ("TOP") **helps young people be themselves** more fully and authentically and give voice to their ideas and dreams.

Through acting, improvisation, and play-creation, we shape powerful emotions and ideas into **moving, profound and funny works of theater!**

- Imaginative, playful and non-didactic
- Theater activities designed to highlight relationship skills, collaboration and leadership
- Many different ways to shine. Do you express yourself best verbally, through writing, music or art, by solving problems, or by giving hugs? Whether you're an introverted dreamer, an extroverted class clown or somewhere in the middle, your talents will be appreciated!
- Culminates in an interactive performance of ensemble-created original short plays



**Who:** TOP is an inclusion program, serving youth with Asperger's, autism, or other learning differences, as well as typically-developing peers. Participants must be able to participate independently in structured group activities or come with an adult aide

**When:** Weekly, Sept-May (choose Seattle or Bellevue):

**Teens & Adults, ages 15 and up:** Tuesdays, 4:15-5:45 PM (Seattle) or Saturdays 10:30 AM-Noon (Bellevue);

**Kids/Tweens, ages 8-14:** Thursdays, 4:15-5:45 PM (Seattle) or Saturdays 9:10-10:20 AM (Bellevue)

**Where:** University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105  
Bellevue Youth Theatre, 16051 NE 10<sup>th</sup> St., Bellevue, WA 98008

**Fee:** Varies by location; partial scholarships & pay-what-you-can available

**How:** For registration/information contact Lauren at (206) 321-4923 or [Lauren@LaurenMarshall.com](mailto:Lauren@LaurenMarshall.com).

Theater of Possibility is now a contracted DSHS/DDA Community Settings Respite Care Provider.

## 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.

*My daughter was able to actually see and experience choices for turning a potentially hurtful social interaction into a beneficial one.*

- Ann Morrow, mother of a 13 year old TOP actor.

*My daughter is the NT sibling. Her brother is HFA. It was a great experience for her. Besides just being fun, it gave her the chance to see how other kids with different abilities are (and how they feel about situations in life) instead of only having her little brother as a reference.*

- Barbary El Naby, mother of a 12 year old TOP actor



*TOP is one of those rare opportunities for kids, like mine, who aren't quite typical, but aren't quite disabled. It's great for them to be with peers. Lauren understands and appreciates their quirky uniqueness.*

- Maya Richardson, mother of TOP actors, ages 7 and 10.

*He loved it. It was the first class/activity that he has done and not worried about going to: he felt very safe and enjoyed it. He especially enjoyed the performances.*

- Holly Tabor, mother of a 7 year old TOP actor.



**Lauren Goldman Marshall** (founding director and lead teacher) has worked as a Seattle playwright & theater director since the late 1980s. She served as co-artistic & producing artistic director of Seattle Public Theater from 1994-95 & 1997-2001, where she worked with youth through SPT's 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).

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Founded in 2010, 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.

Theater of Possibility has four times been supported by a Youth Arts Award from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.