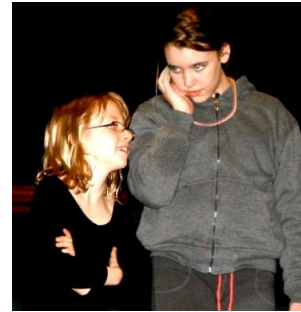


Theater of Possibility

Empowering neurodiverse youth through acting and improv



Fall 2022 - 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:** **Ages 8-14: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 PM, Sept 21-Dec 7** (no class 10/12, 119 or 11/23. Last class goes till 6 PM for showcase).
Ages 15-adult: Saturdays, 9:30-11 AM, Sept 24 - Dec 17 (no class 10/15 or 11/26. Last class goes till 12:30 PM for showcase.)
- Where:** **University Heights Center**, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle, 98105
- Fee:** \$315 (younger) /\$385 (older); sibling discount, partial scholarships & pay-what-you-can available
- How:** For registration/information contact Lauren at (206) 321-4923 or Lauren@LaurenMarshall.com.

Theater of Possibility is a contracted DSHS/DDA Community Settings Respite Care Provider. Also, need-based tuition assistance for families with autism may be available through Ben's Fund, info@bensfund.org

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

Lauren became a teacher I could trust and be open with. She could really change things around for me because we were in a small group. Lauren scribed for me because I could not handwrite as fast as the rest of the class. She made sure that everybody else stopped and listened to my ideas even though I was not yelling or crying about them and my voice is very soft so my words do not always come out right. - Becca Zions, 15-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. - Barbara 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



Lauren Goldman Marshall (founding director and lead teacher) has worked as a Seattle playwright and theater director for three decades. She served at the helm of Seattle Public Theater for five years before stepping down to start a family in 2001. Her plays and musicals have been produced nationally, and include *Abraham's Land* (Kirkland Performance Center), *Fixing Einstein* (workshopped at the 5th Avenue Theatre), an award-winning adaptation of *The Misanthrope* (Artists Repertory Theatre), and the hit Seattle revue *Waiter, There's a Slug in My Latté* (Cabaret de Paris). She has degrees from Stanford (BA, JD) and NYU (MFA).

Founded in 2010, Theater of Possibility uses techniques adapted from Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed, whose methods are used around the world for social activism, community-building, therapy and education.
<http://www.laurenmarshall.com/TheaterOfPossibility.htm>

TOP is excited to partner with ArtsWest to create *Spectrum Stories*, illuminating the many colors of the autism spectrum. We seek adult theater artists who are on the autism spectrum or otherwise identify as neurodivergent and allies to audition for the devising team and/or performing ensemble. For more info, see www.artswest.org/auditions.



TOP also offers classes at Bellevue Youth Theatre, starting in October. Contact Lauren or BYT for more info.



Theater of Possibility has four times been supported by a Youth Arts Award from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture. TOP is a member of the [University Heights Center](http://www.universityheightscenter.org) Theatre Alliance.