

Theater of Possibility: Celebrating Neurodiversity

Adult Master Class



Facilitating Meaningful Inclusion in Neurodiverse Classrooms

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 invited and public 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)
 - 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 Jan 26-28, 2024. Fri: 6-9PM, Sat: 10AM-4 PM, Sun: Noon-4PM (plus showcase 5-7 PM)
- Where:** University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105
- Fee:** \$200 (or pay what you can); students \$150
- How:** For registration, contact Lauren at (206) 321-4923 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

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for creating the TOP community. ... John has flourished in his later teen years and I directly connect that with your program in helping him find flexibility and building self confidence in his ideas. Thank you!

-Xaviera Vandermay, mother of 18-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 at the helm of Seattle Public Theater from 1993-94 & 1997-2001, where she trained in Theater of the Oppressed. Her plays and musicals have been produced nationally, and include *Abraham's Land* (Kirkland Performance Center), *Fixing Einstein* (workshopped at 5th Avenue Theatre), a modern 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).

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



TOP is a member of the U Heights Theater Alliance. This master workshop is being sponsored by the [Academy for Precision Learning](http://www.AcademyforPrecisionLearning.com), a K-12 independent school that celebrates the things that makes our kids different.



Approved for 15 Washington State Educator Clock Hours