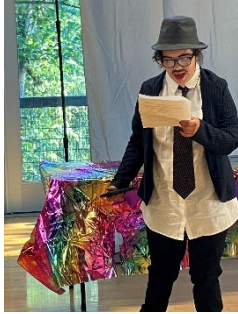


Theater of Possibility

Empowering neurodiverse youth through acting and improv



Fall 2026 - Theater production class - 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!**

This fall TOP is doing something a little different. We're combining the younger and older groups into a single production class to stage our delightful ensemble-created play from the 2026 summer camp, *The Land of Untold Stories*:



Paralyzed by writer's block, a young woman crosses a portal into a dystopian fantasy where an anxious king pays too much heed to a doomsaying oracle. How can we empower ourselves in the face of negative voices sowing doubt and fear? Audience-interactive explorations based on Boal's Theater of the Oppressed will follow each performance. There are plenty of parts to go around, whether or not you were in the summer program!



Who: Ages 12-adult (ages 10-11, please inquire)

TOP is an inclusion program, serving youth with autism and other (dis)abilities, as well as typically-developing peers. Participants must be able to participate independently in structured group activities or come with an adult aide

When: Saturdays, 10 AM-1 PM, starting Sept 19, plus extra rehearsals during tech week, Nov 15-19. Performances Nov 20-22, 2026.

Where: University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle, 98105

Fee: \$600; Scholarships & DDA funding available. Just ask. No one will be turned away for inability to pay.

How: For registration/information and detailed rehearsal schedule contact Lauren Marshall, lead teacher, at (206) 321-4923, admin@theaterofpossibility.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

She hasn't always had great experiences with classes we've tried in the past so her dad and I are so grateful that she has found something she loves with a teacher who is so kind and patient. Michelle Rutter, 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. 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 (TOP founding director, head writer and co-teacher) is an established, award-winning produced playwright, director and teaching artist, with experience working at all levels of theater from student to professional. She was chosen to be a librettist for the new works program at 5th Avenue Theatre and Seattle Opera Creation Lab (2026-28).



Keni Cohen (guest director/ co-teacher) has an extensive resume, working internationally as a director, actor, mime and educator, including 19 years of teaching for Seattle Children's Theatre. This summer, Marshall and Cohen collaborated successfully with each other and the TOP youth to create *The Land of Untold Stories*.

They will be assisted by Resmin Sengider, paraeducator, who has worked with TOP since 2023.



Founded in 2010, Theater of Possibility incorporates techniques adapted from Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed, used around the world for social activism, community-building, therapy and education. TOP has received grants from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, 4Culture and ArtsWA.

<http://www.LaurenMarshall.com/TheaterOfPossibility.htm>

