

Theater of Possibility

Finding yourself through acting and improv

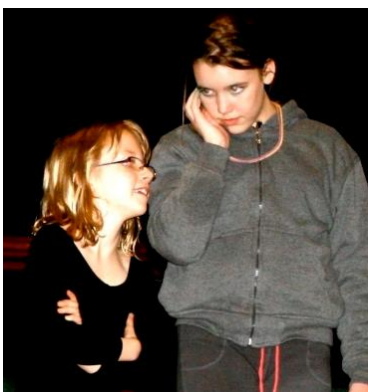


Come explore the possibilities!

Do you sometimes feel you're putting on an act to conform to societal norms, or have you just given up trying? Are you feeling misunderstood and frustrated by interactions with parents, teachers, coworkers or friends? Do you wish you had more friends? How can you be yourself and find acceptance on this crowded planet?

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, ADHD 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:** Kids, ages 8-13: Tuesdays, 4:15-5:45 PM, Sept 27-Dec 13 (last class 4-7 PM for potluck & class sharing)
Teens & Young Adults, ages 14-25: Thursdays, 4:15-5:45 PM, Sept 29-Dec 15 (skipping Thanksgiving) plus Friday, Dec 16 (last class will run 4-8 PM for potluck and class sharing)
- Where:** University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105
- Fee:** \$450. Partial scholarships & pay-what-you-can available
- How:** For registration/information contact Lauren at (206) 320-0570 or 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 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.



Lauren Goldman Marshall (founding director; lead teacher, teens) 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).



Eleanor Withrow (lead teacher, kids class) is originally from Baltimore. She received her theatre education from Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. After moving to Seattle, she and a classmate began The Town Theatre, which offers theatre and theatre education where theatre isn't often found. This goal led to Eleanor's interest in Theatre of the Oppressed. She has been lucky enough to study with Katy Rubin, Theatre of the Oppressed NYC and Lauren Marshall. Working with TOP since January 2014 has been a most enriching experience and she is thrilled to continue working with such interesting and talented people.

Theater of Possibility, founded in 2010, 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 is supported by a Youth Arts Award from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.