

Theater of Possibility

finding yourself through improv and storytelling



Join us for: Summer of Possibilities Theatre Camp!

Do you sometimes feel that 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 have friends? How can you be yourself and find acceptance on this crowded planet?

Theater of Possibility ("TOP") **helps young people be themselves** and give voice to their ideas and dreams. Through acting, improvisation, and play-creation, we explore the dynamics of friendship, family and school. With our focus on creativity and collaboration, TOP offers tools to better understand relationship dynamics and be empowered, but rather than deign to teach you how to conform to social norms, we aim to give you **a voice to teach the world**. Along the way, we shape powerful emotions and ideas into **moving, profound and funny works of theater!**



- Imaginative, playful and non-didactic
- Theater activities 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

We are also taking enrollment for our 2015 Fall sessions!

Who: Some of our students may be quirky, spirited or shy and some may have Asperger's, autism, or other learning differences. Participants must be able to participate independently in structured group activities or come with an adult aide.

When: Summer camp (taught by Eleanor Withrow): August 17-28 M-F 3:30-6:30pm. Family & friends showcase on the 28th until 7:30pm. **Ages 8-16*** potential flexibility based on enrollment
Fall (taught by Lauren Marshall & Eleanor Withrow): Thursdays Sept. 24th- Dec. 17th (skipping Thanksgiving) with a family & friends showcase on the 17th until 7:30. **Teen and Young Adults** (ages 13-25) 4:15-5:45 PM **Kid** (ages 8-13) 6-7 PM .

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

Fee: Summer camp: \$600 / Fall term: Teen class: \$450. Kid class: \$360. Partial scholarships available

How: For registration/information contact Lauren at (206) 320-0570 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

[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 (director) has worked in Seattle as a playwright and theater director since the late 1980s. She served as co-artistic & producing artistic director of Seattle Public Theater for five years before stepping down to start a family in 2001. Through SPT's acclaimed Theater of Liberation program, she worked with youth to explore strategies for conflict resolution and empowerment. Lauren has written award-winning plays and video scripts for groups such as Empty Space Theatre, Village Theatre, Aids Impact and the Lummi Nation. She is the author of the hit Seattle musical *Waiter, There's a Slug in My Latté* and currently is one of six local artists

selected to develop new musicals at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. Lauren has directed numerous plays for small professional and community theaters. She co-founded Aspire Girls, for girls with Asperger's, and Theater of Possibility. She has degrees from Stanford (BA, JD) and New York University (MFA).



Eleanor Withrow (teacher) 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 is what began 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 Theater of Possibility 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 Theater of the Oppressed, developed by Brazilian theater artist and activist Augusto Boal, whose methods are used around the world for social activism, community-building, therapy and education.