

Theater of Possibility

Exploring Relationship Dynamics through Acting and Improv



Come Explore the Possibilities

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** more fully and authentically and give voice to their ideas and dreams. Through acting, improvisation, collaboration and play-creation, we explore the dynamics of friendship, family and school. With our primary 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 student-created 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:** **Teens and Young Adults, ages 12-25+.** Some of our students may be quirky, spirited or shy and some may have Asperger's, autism, or other social skills challenges. Participants need to be able to participate independently in structured group activities or come with an adult aide
- When:** Thursdays, 4:15-5:45, Feb 6-May 15 (skipping 2/20 and 4/17). Final class will run 4-8 PM for a potluck celebration and showcase performance for friends and family
- Where:** University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105
- Fee:** \$475. Payment plans, sibling discounts and 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. I think this is a very powerful tool for our kids. It's a fun way to learn how to deal with some of the social difficulties that our kids face.

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 Director and Producing Artistic Director of Seattle Public Theater from 1995–96 and 1997–2001, before stepping down to start a family. 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, Lummi Nation and the Aids Prevention Theater Troupe. She is the author of the hit Seattle musical revue *Waiter, There's a*

Slug in My Latté and currently is one of six local artists selected to develop new musicals in the New Works program at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. She has also directed numerous plays and musicals for small professional and community theaters. Lauren co-founded Aspire Girls, a social group for girls with Asperger's, and Theater of Possibility. She has degrees from Stanford (BA, JD) and New York University (MFA).

Theater of Possibility, which was started 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.



Scholarships: Thanks to a grant from the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, TOP is able to offer need-based scholarships to students, grades 6–12, living in Seattle. Those outside Seattle may receive non-grant-based partial scholarships as space permits.

