

Touchstone Teaching Methods and Techniques

Theatre of Creation: theatre of Creation emerges from a community of actors rooted in a particular place working together to create a theatre work that is an organic extension of the creator/audience/place relationship.

Touchstone is participating actively in developing the National Ensemble Theatre consortium, a collective of artist-lead theatres in the U.S.A. One of the goals of the Consortium is to provide real working examples of ensemble theaters. The results of actors working together over a period of years in a particular place, creating a link between artist and community, benefits the theatre community as a whole.

Workshops Available:

Towards a Dynamic Theatre; Exploring Movement as our fundamental Language—

A weeklong workshop in the study of theatre through observation and movement. Students work in groups exploring the fundamentals of movement, essential gestures and acting styles. The explorations are applied to solo and group improvisational assignments prepared in and outside of class. Each day will include three hours of class time plus assignments to be completed for the next day's class.

The Organic Creative Process: An ongoing workshop in approximately ten parts that introduces a basic vocabulary of line, rhythm, color, etc., and drawing from these elements in nature, evolves into dramatic monologue and scene. The workshop teaches the fundamental virtues of creative action—honesty, perseverance, thorough and extraordinary effort, speaking with and respecting one's own voice, and most importantly, how to give up what was before to proceed to the new while still being true to the original impulse.

Building Bridges: Touchstone ensemble teaching-artists use theatre and creative drama to facilitate learning of cultural competency, self-awareness, and communication. Experiences guide participants toward more effective communication, enriched problem-solving and decision-making skills and a stronger sense of the group or community. This series of workshops uses the techniques of Improvisation and Augusto Boal as tools for creating communal dialogue.

Playing the Mask: The mask demands that an actor support it, fill it, be led by it. If an actor imposed his pre-conceived idea on the mask, it will not play. Mask work teaches actors many skills that can also be applied to non-mask work: presence, physical action, response, clarity of gesture, isolation of movement, sensory awareness. This workshop features a variety of masks, each type leading the actor to a new discovery. The different masks include: neutral mask, full-character masks, half-masks, rubber noses, and the red nose.

Other workshops are available.