

## Stage the Change Workshop Descriptions - April 22, 2023 11:30 am – 5 pm

### Art & Racism

#### **The Actors Toolbox** by Marcus LeGrand (11:30 am – 1 pm)

Presentation, clarity, and creative communication... are the gifts of an actor. These skills allow actors to tell stories that can touch the heart and change the world. Actors are taught to use their "toolbox" - their face, body, and voice - to command the attention of an audience and bring them along on a journey. Drawing on the tools of an actor, the exercises in this workshop will teach students to improve stage presence, projection, and script memorization. Today, performers will practice how they can adapt the actor's toolbox to help them become better communicators and better able to share their own messages with the world.

#### **Race as it Relates to Art: *Fires In the Mirror*** by William Earl Ray, PassinArt (1:30 pm – 3 pm)

There are three sides to every story: yours, mine and the truth. Following the deaths of a Black American boy and a young Orthodox Jewish scholar in the summer of 1991, underlying racial tensions in the nestled community of Crown Heights, Brooklyn erupted into civil outbreak. *Fires in the Mirror* was Anna Deavere Smith's groundbreaking response. Brought to life from a series of interviews with over fifty members of the Jewish and Black communities, the Drama Desk award-winning work translated their voices verbatim, and in the process revolutionized the genre of documentary theatre.

#### **Fate of Understanding** by MOsley Wotta (3:30 pm – 5 pm)

How to use personal experience to create authentic voice. This intuition driven workshop will engage care-centered risk-taking methods towards essentializing revolution as daily practice. This workshop is for folks who draw doodles on standardized test, talk to the moon, and can't sit still in class. We will be working in multi mediums including writing, painting, ancestry, muse, and the angels which predate the construct of religion. ...basically we prolly gonna make a mess, laugh a lot and encourage each other to be ourselves ...whatever that means.

### Equity, Inclusion & Art

#### **Making Theatre That Meets the Moment** by Willow Norton (11:30 am – 1 pm)

For actors, playwrights, directors, activists, storytellers, & those interested in saying something through theater. This ensemble generating workshop will explore the making of original performance works around themes and questions that hold meaning to the group. Borrowing from contemporary and classical ensemble generating theater techniques, participants will explore how to use the elements of theatre to craft a work that meets the moment.

#### **A Fresh Approach....** By James Miles (1:30 pm – 3 pm)

There have been dramatic shifts in education since schools first opened in the USA in 1647. From educational priorities to classroom sizes to demographics to technology, schoolhouses look wildly different than Horace Mann's original design. While innovation catapulted schools into the 21st century, it has minimized the importance of learning connected to the arts, critical thinking, social emotional learning, and civics, causing our youth and communities to suffer. It's time for new approach to education. The pandemic has presented us with the possibility to reimagine education and build a system where every student feels seen, heard, and valued, and where creativity is fomented and cultivated. Though we haven't fully capitalized on that opportunity yet, our time is coming. It involves a shift in mindset that allows us to be more creative, compassionate, and critical. And it all boils down to just two words: Hip Hop.

## **Expressing Equity and Inclusion Through Movement** by #instaballet (3:30 pm – 5 pm)

Sometimes, words fail us. Movement helps us express what cannot be captured through a written narrative. Join the interactive dance group #instaballet as we create together, learning how to communicate and listen through movement (no prior dance experience is required!). We'll explore movement that expresses the concepts of equity and inclusion, with a group brainstorm around what those concepts mean to us as individuals and a community. We'll work together to express that dialogue through movement. Basic choreographic techniques that can be paired with simple or complex movement will be shared and applied, and students will work in small groups to explore communicating their thoughts and ideas through dance. We'll conclude by combining individual and small group creative content into one, larger group work, sharing our movement dialogue with each other.

## **LGBTQAI2S+ Equality**

### **Power & Movement** by Samuel Hobbs of PUSH/FOLD (11:30 am – 1 pm)

This workshop develops the application of physical power in movement and reinforces efficient and sustainable practices for dancers of various levels. Through guided movements, weight-sharing, and phrase work, we build on our understanding of the impact our posture plays in enhancing confidence on and off the stage, creating clear messages with our bodies, and strengthening our technique in all styles of movement. Participants should expect mid to high-level movement and working with partners of varied genders and sizes.

### **Discovering Your Inner Queen!** By Lylac (1:30 pm – 3 pm)

Take a dive into the art of drag in this workshop hosted by Lylac. This workshop will take you through the basics of drag from creating a persona, makeup, styling, and performing! So come ready to learn and participate in a interactive experience that'll help bring out that inner diva we all have inside.

### **Breaking the Mold by Dismantling 'Shoulds'** by John Kish (3:30 pm – 5 pm)

Through theater, John found his voice and himself. Learn about some of the transformative events that shaped John to be the artist he is today and apply basic skills to break out from your mold! We will spend our time reinventing our chosen song or monologue with different aspects that make you comfortable as a performer. These simple tasks of song interpretation, setting objectives, choosing an outfit, applying music, or wearing the right lip color, can help any artist feel their best as themselves and as their character. Auditions alone can be daunting with rules, self-shame, and "shoulds" however being your true authentic self is what makes you stand out and perform your best. Sometimes you feel stuck or like you are recreating the same character someone else did, so mix it up within the given circumstances to make it your own genuine portrayal. Why fit the mold given, when theater is the epitome of breaking those molds.

## **Adversity Meets Innovation**

### **Finding Your Voice and Expression: Your Words Are Powerful** by Brent Florendo (11:30 am – 1 pm)

Through Indigenous storytelling and stage work you will learn the perspective of the Oral Tradition and how it affects your understanding of communication and the power of your words. Receive guidance and advice that is essential when facing and addressing adversity.

### **Taiko Empowerment: An Otherness Workshop** by Unit Souzou (1:30 pm – 3 pm)

Taiko (Japanese drumming) is an energetic fusion of sound, movement and spirit, and has been a loud and proud voice to express stories of identity and heritage. Through a rhythmic journey, we will share stories through body, rhythm, and the powerful beats of taiko engaging in questions of identity and belonging – how we identify ourselves and how we perceive others. How have I been othered? How have I othered myself? How have I othered others?

### **Fusing Music and Mental Health Tools Needed for Everyday Life** by Maiah Wynne (3:30 pm – 5 pm)

Singer-songwriter, Maiah Wynne fuses her music and her certified First Aid Arts training to create an engaging presentation of practical mental health tools that can be employed easily to each student's day. Available in person and via Zoom, she has presented this interactive lecture in classrooms all over the US and Canada. Maiah will share everyday tools that she's learned from firstaidarts.org that can help calm, uplift, and regulate in times of need. Each student will leave with calm in their heart and practical mental health tools at their fingertips.