

Middle School Workshop Descriptions May 6th-8th 2024

Monday May 6th

11:15-12:15

Break the Ice!

Volunteer Lead Workshop in the Courtyard

Join us for some low risk theatre games to get to know your fellow theatre students and NB Drama Festival Volunteers.

12:30-1:30

Creative Movement- Discovering as A Community

With Andrew McAllister in JDH-G5

Through this workshop we will dip our toes into the art of movement and discover how simplicity and unity can work wonders. When you turn the noise off and are present in the room is when the fun begins. We will discover everyone has a choreographer in them when given the tools to do so. Movement is for everyone! These exercises require open hearts, ears and minds.... and most of all, no formal dance training required. Take the time to explore, play and be vulnerable.

Improvising Together

With Chris Levielle in JDH-G6

The foundation of improv is support and trust - it takes teamwork! This workshop will explore some exercises to help build that sense of support and “group mind” and help to build an ensemble.

It's a Block Off!

With Tania Breen in JDH-205

In this fast-paced workshop, we will use theatre games to learn the principles of blocking, then divide into two teams and finally showcase the results of each cooperative effort. It is a fun, slightly competitive and hilarious way to learn the essentials of blocking. Teachers and Advisors are welcome to observe and/or participate.

2:00-3:00

Improv: Finding the Fun

With Chris Levielle in JDH-G5

Improvising can sometimes feel like work. But when you're having fun, the audience is having fun. This workshop will focus on getting past the inner critic and finding fun and play on stage.

Having Fun With the Actor's 3 Key Tools

With Michael McArdle in JDH-G6

This CRAZY fun workshop explores the development of the 3 tools of the actor: the BODY, the VOICE & especially the CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE! Through a range of mini experiments, this workshop strives to better prepare actors to engage their imaginations, inspire onstage creative movement & to further develop their vocal skills. Be prepared for tongue twisters...insane stage directions...dialects...zany physical interactions with the other participants...& a LOT of laughs! Up to 20 people can participate in this workshop.

How Many Characters are in this Scene?

With Nathanael Telman in JDH-205

Scripts are strong and flexible things. Without changing any words, we will all explore a scene together and maybe find some characters you didn't expect! Was that fireman saving a cat or was a jewellery shop getting burgled? Let's find out together in this one-hour workshop, crazy characters are welcome!

3:30-4:30

Acting Through Song

With Sharisse Lebrun in JDH-G5

In musical theatre, it is not enough to just sing a song well. Performers must embody their characters and continue actively telling the story of their musical, even when the song begins. In this workshop, participants will be guided through tools and techniques to help bring their favourite musical theatre song to life in a dynamic and engaging way. Please come with a memorized verse and chorus of a song you'd like to work on.

Same Music, Totally Different Stories

With Michael McArdle in JDH-G6

This fun workshop explores the magic of the "Art of Silence". Employing minimal props, a small group setting & maximum use of the imaginations of the group members, amazing, diverse "Mini Silent Movies" will result...All of which share only one common factor: the SAME piece of one minute background music. Up to 25 people can participate in this workshop.

Getting Comfy with Monologues!

With Nathanael Telman in JDH-205

(this workshop is best for smaller groups)

Whether it is for an audition or to soliloquize your character's innermost desires, monologues can be a little intimidating. This workshop will explore monologues, giving you fundamentals on breaking them down and performing them. Feel free to bring along a monologue of your own choosing or creation, but neither is required.

6:00-7:00

Musical Theatre Dance 101

With Kate Henderson in JDH-G5

No previous dance experience? No problem!

This workshop is tailored to help beginners step comfortably into the spotlight. Join us for this beginner-friendly workshop designed to demystify the art of dance and enhance your stage presence. Whether you're preparing for your first audition or simply looking to feel more confident moving on stage this workshop is for you.

I Can't Dance & I'm Too Alfonzo to Fly!

With Michael Mcardle in JDH-G6

Super fun workshop that explores how an hour of interaction by a motley group of unfamiliar folks, a few snippets of music & a PAPER PLATE can totally change one's mind about how show choreo can be created. This workshop can accommodate up to 20 participants.

Directing Masterclass (For Teachers)

With Tania Breen in JDH-205

This one-hour session provides teachers and directors with an opportunity to share the pitfalls of directing large ensembles and explore procedures and best practices for directing student actors. Participants will walk away with a toolkit for bringing a narrative to life.

Tuesday May 7th

9:00-10:00

Calling all Choreographers!

With Kate Henderson in JDH-G5

In this one-hour workshop, we will brainstorm, create, and practice a dance number together. This workshop is ideal for anyone interested in dance but unsure of where to start. No previous experience is required—just a desire to move and create! Whether

you're looking to find a new hobby, express yourself, or just have fun, this workshop is for you. We will also get a chance to perform this piece at the festival showcase.

Welcome to Improv!

With Chris Levielle in JDH-G6

Never improvised before? This workshop will take you through the basic skills for improvisation. It's not about being funny; it's about helping others.

Puppetry and Object Animation

With Sharisse Lebrun in JDH-205

This workshop will explore the basics of puppetry and object animation. Participants will learn about the different types of puppetry, and explore basic skills through movement and narrative exercises to breathe life and magic into ordinary objects.

10:30-11:30

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Fun With Theatre Games

A volunteer lead workshop in JDH-205

Theatre is fun! Join our volunteers for an hour of fun theatre games and a chance to play!

12:30-1:30

Intro to Costume Designing

With Michael McArdle in JDH-G5

Come & see what designing costumes for musicals & theatre is all about. There'll be a little bit of history, some examples you can touch & study; some ideas for costuming on a tight budget & then you can try your hand at designing your own concept or idea for a character from a well known theatre production. All materials provided...just bring your creative juices & give it a whirl!

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All Things Drama Fest

A volunteer lead Discussion in JDH-205

This volunteer lead discussion dives into everything drama festival, friends we've made, skills we've learned and even some things we think need improvement.

12:15-1:15

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