

High School Workshop Descriptions May 9th-11th 2024

Thursday May 9th

9:00-10:00

Let's Dance!

With Rachel Rowan in JDH-G5

Come learn a fun dance combination to a popular musical theatre song! Start your day right dancing into drama fest!

Improvising Together

With Chris Leveille 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.

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.

10:30-11:30

How Many Characters are in this Scene?

With Nathanael Telman in JDH-G5

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!

Welcome to Improv!

With Chris Leveille 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.

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

With Michael Mcardle in JDH-205

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.

12:30-1:30

Acting the Song

With Tania Breen in JDH-G5

Performing musical theatre isn't rocket science, but the tricks of the trade are often hard to articulate! This dynamic 50-minute session, led by STU's Director of Musical Theatre, will provide students with the practical tools needed to bring a song to life in a believable, authentic way. Participants will learn what it means to be "in their body", internalizing gesture, and incorporating true power into their performance.

Puppetry and Object Animation

With Sharisse Lebrun in JDH-G6

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.

Having Fun With the Actor's 3 Key Tools

With Michael McArdle in JDH-205

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.

Few Hands Make Simple Production Work

With Trent Logan in the Ted Daigle Theatre

Do you have big ideas for the set, lighting, sound, and projection design of your show but little help to pull it together? In this workshop we will explore different ways to approach the areas of theatrical production design that have a big impact with little time. We'll examine some generic themes in lighting and projection that can be recycled into future productions. We'll look at ways to create reusable set pieces and how to revitalize them for each show.

2:00-3:00

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.

Audition prep - Choosing and breaking down a monologue.

With Simon Gagnon in JDH-G6

How to pick and prepare a piece of text for auditions. Breaking down a monologue to discover the beats and story of the piece and how to best prepare yourself for the day of the audition. (Please bring a monologue/piece of text you like from a play, movie or tv show. Does not need to be memorized! if you don't have one, there will be some available to use).

Acting for Film and Television

With Ian Curran in JDH-205

Come learn some crucial skills needed to perform on the screen. Explore a whole new world of performance skills.

3:30-4:30

Improv: Scenework

With Chris Leveille in JDH-G5

Do you already know how to improvise? In this workshop, we'll focus on elements of improvised scenework (the who? what? and where?) and making bold choices.

Performance Master Class

With Tania Breen in JDH-G6

Do you have a piece - either a monologue or song - that you would like to prepare for an audition? Would you like to try your hand at working with a professional director in a safe, supportive environment? This workshop will give participants a taste of a university-level masterclass.

Musical Theatre Dance 101

With Kate Henderson in JDH-205

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.

6:00-7:00

Improv: Character Building

With Chris Leveille in JDH-G5

This workshop aims to provide you with some tools to help you create varied characters when you walk into an improv scene.

Intro to Costume Designing

With Michael McArdle in JDH-G6

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!

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.

7:30-8:30

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Tag Team Me That Monologue

With Michael McArdle in JDH-G6

Each workshop participant is assigned his/her part of a cool, compelling monologue. When combined, all the parts come together to create a powerful, inspiring singular character. We will delve into explorations of character analysis, motivation & delivery as components of this workshop; one which always results in the creation of an awesome, unique scene! This workshop has a capacity of 15 participants.

Calling all Choreographers!

With Kate Henderson in JDH-205

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.

Friday May 10th

9:00-10:00

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.

Actors Tool Kit

With Tania Breen in JDH-G6

This session will explore the fundamentals of performing for the stage through the works of masters. We will touch on basic notions of movement, voice and action. Students will be able to find an authentic and relaxed stage presence by exploring advanced techniques, made simple and accessible. Participants are advised to wear comfortable, non-restrictive clothing.

Same Music, Totally Different Stories

With Michael McArdle in JDH-205

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.

10:30-11:30

Discovering Characters and Story Through Movement

With Simon Gagnon in JDH-G5

An easily accessible approach to discovering your own movement qualities and in turn, your character's. Using the Laban movement analysis, you will work through a fun and imaginative way to explore the way and quality in which every human moves. Don't be scared by the word movement, absolutely everyone can do this, there is no dancing experience needed! (Please wear clothes comfy enough to move around in).

Making a Scene

With Ilkay Silk in JDH-G6

Using short scenes of dialogue, Students will create characters and situations that can tell a complete story that has a beginning, a middle and an end.

Having Fun with the Actor's 3 Key Tools

With Michael McArdle in JDH-205

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.

Fun With Theatre Games

A volunteer Lead Workshop in the Courtyard

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

12:30-1:30

Performance Master Class

With Tania Breen in JDH-G5

Do you have a piece - either a monologue or song - that you would like to prepare for an audition? Would you like to try your hand at working with a professional director in a safe, supportive environment? This workshop will give participants a taste of a university-level masterclass.

Beginner Musical Theatre Dance

With Emma McEvoy in JDH-G6

Learn a fun, high-energy Musical Theatre combo to a song from Six the Musical. Sing and dance along.

Improv: Fundamentals of Coaching (For Teachers)

With Chris Leveille in JDH 205

This workshop is aimed at improv coaches or people who teach improv. The bare bones of coaching: the coach's role, the team's goal, and quality control. It's everything you wanted to know about coaching, but were afraid to ask.

2:00-3:00

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Acting Through Song

With Sharisse Lebrun in JDH-205

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.

Devise and Conquer

With Jeff Lloyd in ECH-G12

Do you want to learn how to work together and create fast paced and topical plays that reflect the world you and your students are living in? Forget about the stressful choices of play selection. You will learn a few exercises to unlock your collective brain that will get your group well on its way to devising your own play. This workshop is intended for both teachers and students.

3:30-4:30

If we knew then what we know now

With Ilkay Silk and Suzanne Doyle Yerxa in JDH-G5

Ilkay Silk and Suzanne Doyle Yerxa will present this workshop for teacher directors, advisors, student directors, and anyone else who is interested in the process of directing/producing a show. Through touching lightly on decisions that were not effective and celebrating the things the lessons we learned, we hope to engage in a discussion and answer questions that you may have.

Intermediate Musical Theatre Dance

With Emma McEvoy in JDH-G6

Learn a fun, high-energy Musical Theatre combo to a song from Six the Musical. Sing and dance along.

Shakespeare...Slayer of Souls!

With Michael McArdle in JDH-205

This innovative session is a new workshop employing an “original” script which investigates the inner thoughts & feelings of several of Shakespeare’s characters as they rise from their graves to question Will about their untimely demise. It’s cool, it’s dramatic, it’s unexpected and...it’s ACTING! Come and give life to this new script about so many tragic deaths! This workshop can accommodate up to 16 performers.

6:00-7:00

Discovering Characters and Story Through Movement

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An easily accessible approach to discovering your own movement qualities and in turn, your character's. Using the Laban movement analysis, you will work through a fun and imaginative way to explore the way and quality in which every human moves. Don't be scared by the word movement, absolutely everyone can do this, there is no dancing experience needed! (Please wear clothes comfy enough to move around in).

Writing and Performing Sketch Comedy

With Chris Leveille in JDH-G6

Sketch comedy, like you see on Saturday Night Live, Key and Peele, and Baroness von Sketch, can be a lot of fun, but takes a lot of work. In this workshop, you'll learn about what makes a comedic premise and the different kinds of comedic scenes.

Intro to Costume Designing

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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!

Capturing the Festival

With Ian Curran in the lower level of JDH

Photography can capture special moments the mind doesn't always recognize. Capture drama fest through a new lens.

7:30-8:30

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.

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Play Writing Workshop

With Ryan Griffith in JDH-205

Have you ever had an idea for a play or have you been working on one for a while? If so, this workshop is for you! Join Ryan Griffin, NTS graduate and published and performed playwright, to explore the page to stage process.

All Things Drama Fest

A volunteer lead Discussion in ECH-G12

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.

Saturday May 11th

9:00-10:00

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