

Maria Glanz

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Theatre/Playwriting

Residences Offered:

PLAYWRITING: Students explore the building blocks of writing for the stage, working with a variety of creative methods including improvisation (playwriting on your feet), brainstorming, scene construction, storytelling, and more to write their own original short plays. Professional actors read at least one scene from each student at the conclusion of the residency, so that students can experience hearing their words come to life.

SOLO PERFORMANCE: The craft of solo performance is a true blend of writing and acting. Students explore playwriting and storytelling exercises to write original pieces or adapt existing literature. Students then bring their texts to life through acting, movement and vocalization, performing short original works they have created.

Preferred Age/Grade Level: 5th – 12th

Space, time, and equipment consideration:

A space where students can write as well as move easily is best. Residency can also be broken into different sections, with writing section in a typical classroom and performance section in a larger room.

Teaching Experience:

I have been a joyful arts educator for over 25 years, in Honolulu, San Diego, Seattle and Vashon. In addition to being Artistic Director for Rainier Valley Youth Theatre in Seattle and Playwrights Project in San Diego, I have taught playwriting for ACT Theatre and in multiple middle and high schools. I have also taught acting, improvisation, creative drama, and original performance, and enjoyed co-teaching a Story to Stage residency at VHS with Elizabeth Klob of UMO in Spring 2018.

Artist Statement:

I am a writer, performer, actor, arts educator, and sometimes a director. I have worked in Seattle theatres since 1993 and have toured North America as an award-winning solo performer. My work has received many honors, including the Richard Hugo House New Play Award and Best of Fest awards at multiple fringe theatre festivals; I also received an Artist Trust Fellowship in Theatre in 2002. I'm a member of both UMO Ensemble and Civic Rep Theatre here on Vashon. My teaching is multi-layered and organized around three concepts: 1. a foundation of structure and form is helpful, so that one can then begin to invent and experiment; 2. there is no one right method of making art that applies to every individual; 3. theatre and literature are not wholly theoretical – doing and creating are as necessary as studying and thinking. Theatre is the most alive and collaborative art form we have. Every student has the potential to make a story, a character, a piece of performance. Every student has something important to say and give to the world.