

STC presents acting and comedy classes for teens and adults

Posted by Marjorie Nesin

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The following was submitted by Salem Theatre Company:

The Salem Theatre Company has announced their line-up for the Winter/Spring 2011 semester of theater education classes, which includes beginning acting, the business of acting, stand-up comedy, and improvisation.

The four classes (details below) will run variously from March 10 through May 3. Spaces are limited for all classes. To enroll, visit <http://salemtheatre.com/classes.htm> or e-mail gary@salemtheatre.com. All classes are held at the Salem Theatre Company at 90 Lafayette Street, Salem, and run for eight weeks, unless otherwise noted.

Fundamentals of Acting (Ages 12-17)

Thursdays, March 10 – April 28, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$240

This introductory class is designed for those with little or no prior training, or for anyone interested in exploring acting as an enjoyable means of self-expression, creation, and thinking on their feet. Students learn the techniques of improvisation, scene study, monologue performances, and movement.

Instructor Sara Maurno has over 20 years experience in both stage and film performance in New York and Boston. She has acted, produced and directed shows in Off-Broadway venues such as LaMama E.T.C., The Ensemble Studio Theater and the Soho Repertory Theater, to name a few. Trained in the classics, her roots are also in environmental performance art, working on and off stage with such cutting-edge Boston based theater companies as Theatreworks and The Open Door Theatre of Jamaica Plain.

The Business of Acting (Ages 18+)

One-day workshop, Saturday March 19, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$140

Interested in being a working actor? Come learn how to market yourself with headshots, resumes, reels, websites, and social marketing, set up a home office, and prepare for auditions and callbacks. The class will also cover what you need to know about the Boston, New England, and New York theater and film markets, interacting with casting and talents, dealing with unions, creating voiceover reels, and how to identify non-theatre opportunities for performance work that pays. Includes on-camera practice of how to present an audition and reading for speaking roles, background and stand-in work, and industrial films.

Instructor Karen Smith is a locally based union actor (SAG/AFTRA/AEA) and teacher with over 20 years of experience in both the New England and New York markets. Her background includes commercials, voiceovers, industrials, TV, film, and stage.

Stand-Up Comedy (Ages 18+)

Wednesdays, March 23 – May 18 (skips May 4), 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$240

Develop a comedic stand-up routine based on your everyday experiences and learn several different presentation methods to get the most out of your jokes. The class culminates with a live performance for an invited audience of the students' families and friends.

Instructor Mark Scalia is a 20-year veteran in the stand-up circuit. He is also a very busy film actor and director on both the East and West Coasts.

Improvisation (Ages 18+)

Tuesdays, March 15 – May 3, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

NOTE: this class will meet at the Griffen Theatre, 7 Lynde Street, Salem

Tuition: \$240

No matter what you do for a living, or what your interests are, the skills that are emphasized in improv can benefit you in all areas. Through the exploration of fun group improv exercises, interactive theater games, and scene work, you will experience the opportunity to grow and exercise your creativity in a safe and respectful environment. The class will end with a live performance

after the last session for those who wish to show off their new found skills.

Instructor Erik Rodenhiser is a successful working actor in New England, making a living with commercials and local acting gigs. Owner of The Griffen Theatre, Erik has been teaching acting and improv to teens and adults alike, and has performed stand up comedy and improv throughout the North Shore.

About the STC

The Salem Theatre Company - a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization – was founded in 2002 and enriches the artistic, cultural, and economic life of the Greater Salem region through the performance of classic, contemporary, and new works of exceptional theater. The STC hopes to move and inspire, and to build connections with new, diverse audiences and theatre artists through the performing arts and arts education outreach. Now in its Eighth Season, the Salem Theatre Company is led by Artistic Director John Fogle, Executive Director Gary LaParl, and Board President Peg Howard. Details about tickets, the theater on Lafayette Street, and Season Eight are at www.salemtheatre.com.
