

# Children's Theatre Workshops

## TWIST YOUR OWN TALE

(FOR GRADES 4-8)

Using the tools of 'improvisational theatre', students create, rehearse and perform their own 'twisted' fairy tale

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

- Charles Darwin



"After his hysterically funny show, Michael came to our class as a celebrity. His rapport with the students helped even the most introverted students perform 'improv' with confidence. It was a fabulous way to explore drama!"

- Grade 5/6 Teacher, Regal Rd. PS

"Michael's improv workshop was great! My students had a wonderful time and couldn't stop talking about it. The ground rules that Michael established for activities made the students' sketches much more successful. Michael has given us the tools so that we can continue to do improv sketches during our Drama classes"

- Grade 5/6 teacher, Regal Rd. PS

"Michael's workshop really gave me courage to act. I also really liked the games! At first I did not what improv was but now I do and I really like it! Now I have the courage to perform in front of a lot of people. It was awesome!"

- Grade 4 student

## WHAT?

### What is a 'twisted' fairy tale?

A twisted fairy tale is a traditional fairy tale that has been altered in ways which give the tale new meaning.

### What is Improvisation?

Improvisational theatre - or 'Improv' - is a form of unscripted theatre where most or all of what is performed is created in the moment with little or no pre-planning.

## WHY?

### Why 'twist' fairy tales?

Fairy tales are the building blocks of literacy, and their timeless ability to move, inspire and delight young minds is why they are the foundation of this workshop. 'Twisting' a fairy tale is simply the practice of freely adapting a tale to find even more personal meaning and relevance in it.

### Why learn to improvise?

The educational benefits of learning to improvise are many. For most students, it increases confidence, assertiveness, poise, creativity, problem solving ability, public speaking skills, decision making, playfulness and trust (in oneself, as well as in others). It is also incredibly fun! Working without a written script truly demands that participants fully unleash and explore their own unique story-telling powers.

## HOW?

### How to twist the tale!

Working in small groups, students will collectively adapt, rehearse and ultimately present their own 'semi-improvised' version of a well-known fairy tale. Each group will collaboratively develop an adaptation of a fairy tale of their choice. A 'rough', collectively written script will be used throughout the rehearsal process as a guide to the essential action of the play. Basic instruction in acting 'objectives', character development and improvisation technique will enable students to present a complete performance of an original play for their peers without a script! Other production elements such as props, costumes and sound (etc.) will be added as time will allow. This process-oriented workshop also demonstrates how much creative production can occur in a relatively short time period.



## RATES?

### Workshop Rates:

Workshops are tailored to your needs, time requirements and budget. Please contact Mike for more information.

*"Michael introduced the students to exercises that were varied, fun and included many elements of the drama curriculum expectations, including 'role/character, relationship, time and place and focus and emphasis'. His expertise was evident throughout and he demonstrated a range of skills and knowledge in all aspects of drama"*

-Grade 5/6 teacher, Clinton PS

*"Michael's improv drama workshop was amazing. It was great fun and we learned how to act on the spot. I think he was a great teacher."*

-Grade 4 student

*"Michael's workshop brought me to a whole new world of drama."*

-Grade 4 student

*"The class was a lot of fun because we had groups and did these little improv warm-ups. By the end we were doing full improv scenes. The scenes were all realistic yet very funny. I would definitely do the workshop again!"*

-Grade 6 student

*"The Drama Program was so much fun! I learned how to work together better with some of the people I don't talk to a lot! Michael was an awesome teacher, he was so supportive and helped when we got into arguments, Michael is awesome!"*

- Grade 6 student

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