

Mad River Theater Works

Residency Activities

Please note that residency fees may vary

The goal of a residency is to give participants practical techniques for making plays as well as insights into the creative process. This goal is accomplished by working with students and teachers in hands-on, improvisational workshops to create short plays based on local issues, personal narratives, or community history. Depending on the length of the residency, the plays may be simple or more elaborate. The emphasis is always how the play is made more than the final product itself, but most often residencies result in pieces, which are performed for an audience of other students or parents.

Workshops

Leading Students in the Creation of Plays

- Audience: Professional educators, classroom assistants, parents
- Number of participants: 25
- Length: 60 minutes
- Requirements: A blackboard, flip chart, or something else to write on

Jeff Hooper, playwright and founder of Mad River Theater Works, pioneered methods for writing plays that reflect the history and culture of local communities. Company members will provide practical techniques for crafting plays and insights into the creative process. In this hands-on improvisational workshop, teachers and other educators explore how to lead students in the play creation process. Stories can be drawn from local issues, personal narratives, or community history. Each person outlines a short story and then examples will be used to demonstrate how to create a play from this material. Participants will also learn how to guide young people in making plays, including identifying and researching topics, creating dialogue, and performance techniques.

Exploring Plays with Students

- Audience: Students from 3rd Grade to High School
- Number of participants: 25
- Length: 60 minutes

Where do you find stories that would make good plays, and how do you transform them into drama? Members of the Mad River Theater Works company have worked with students and teachers for many years on the creation of original plays from local stories. This workshop is a hands-on, participatory experience in which students will share stories and create a simple play in the classroom.

Using Music in Plays with Students

- Audience: Professional educators, classroom assistants, parents
- Number of participants: 25
- Length: 60 minutes

Bob Lucas, Performer and Music Director of Mad River Theater Works, has collaborated with Jeff Hooper on more than a dozen plays with music exploring the history and culture of rural America. Bob's unique songs and approach to combining music and drama have resulted in distinctive shows that have been performed in theaters across the United States and Canada. This interactive workshop will explore how songs and music speak to audiences in ways that spoken drama cannot. It will also cover how to integrate music into drama and techniques for working with students to write original lyrics. Bob will talk about the collaborative process and lead participants in learning how to choose subject matter and images, develop rhythms and rhymes, and will teach some games that can be played with students to improve performances.

