

*“We were deeply moved by your show. The best, most riveting performance for a school audience that I have ever seen!”*  
– B. Rosenzweig, Auxiliary Services to High Schools

456 West 37th Street  
New York, NY 10018



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## Youth and Community Programs

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The use of the arts as a tool for education stimulates all three modes of learning: oral, visual, and kinesthetic. It also supports overall academic achievement and productive citizenship.

### Arts programs reinforce the following essential skills:

- Language Acquisition
- Mental and Physical Discipline
- Critical Thinking
- Self-Awareness and Self-Esteem
- Teamwork and Social Participation

### Our programs address all 5 strands of the New York City Department of Education **Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts, Grades Pre-K–12:**

- Theatre Making:  
Acting, Playwriting, Designing, and Technical Theatre
- Developing Theater Literacy
- Making Connections
- Working with Community and Cultural Resources
- Exploring Careers and Lifelong Learning

# Shakespeare Made Simple

**New Perspectives Theatre's singular approach to teaching and performing Shakespeare is grounded in the language, authentic historical contexts, and the universal dynamics of real human behavior.**

Our focus on the text — and clues embedded in the composition and sounds — rather than the plots, gives teachers and students the tools to understand and USE the power of the spoken word, in all aspects of their lives. Performances are delivered in a highly active and interactive style — we never pretend the audience isn't there.

Study guides and/or classroom packets are provided for all events. The multiple workshop and performance components are described below.

**Blueprint for the Arts**  
Purpose of Theater Arts  
in New York City Public Schools



Students learn to expose themselves and develop empathy for their own and others' situations. They begin to understand universal themes and ways of looking at the world.

## PERFORMANCES

### *Shakespeare's Fools, Leading Ladies, and Villains*

Students are at the center of the action in this unique introduction to Shakespeare in performance. The three shows in the series feature famous scenes and archetypal characters from *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, among other plays. Choose one or all. Performances run 60 minutes with 30-minute post-performance workshop. Grades 4-12.

### *Motley, Mad & Marriage-Minded: A Shakespeare Vaudeville*

A FUN variety-show-format of scenes, monologues, and sayings to introduce kids to Shakespeare and get them excited about learning more about his plays! The show also features Cole Porter's song "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" in opening and closing production numbers that feature the many words and phrases from Shakespeare that we now use every day. Performance runs 60 minutes; a post-show Q&A can be added. Grades 4-12.

***"You did such a fabulous job of making this play accessible to students of all learning levels. It's a perfect way to introduce students to cultural experiences."***

— B. Montgomery, Harry S. Truman High School (Special Education)

### *Two Hour's Traffic*

Performances of full plays in two hours, including a post-performance workshop, are offered in the Fall and Spring. In addition to a thorough study of the text, New Perspectives Theatre also applies research from historical and source material to its productions, creating a vibrant, three-dimensional world that deepens our understanding of human behavior across time. Special preparatory workshops can also be scheduled. Plays offered annually are *Romeo & Juliet* and *Macbeth*.

#### ★ BLUEPRINT CRITERIA

- Responding to Theatre Performance
- Awareness of Careers in Theatre
- Theatre for Enjoyment and Lifelong Learning

***"We experienced highly professional performances in an intimate, 'hands-on' setting, which allowed my kids to feel some ownership of the Shakespearean text. I'm grateful for any opportunity to see them recognize their own humanity and intellect — New Perspectives brought that out."*** — E. Wylie, Wings Academy

## WORKSHOPS

### *Kids Speak Shakespeare*

Shakespeare as mystery writer? Young people use famous monologues to find clues in the language that serve as a map to discover meaning and the power of speaking the text out loud. Kids overcome their fears and intimidation and take ownership of Shakespeare's words. 45 minutes. Grades 4-12.



#### ★ BLUEPRINT CRITERIA

- Understanding Dramatic Texts
- Connecting Theatre Arts to Other Disciplines
- Performance Skills — such as exercising and refining the actor's instrument

### *The Play's the Thing*

Workshops focus on specific plays through examination of key scenes and monologues that reveal themes and the course of the action. Professional text-analysis methods give kids the tools they need to read the full play and have fun discovering meaning and character motivation on their own. 2 hours. Grades 6-12.

#### ★ BLUEPRINT CRITERIA

- Working with Theatre Professionals in the School
- Students will recognize and connect personal experience to universal themes

### *All the World's A Stage*

In-depth residencies combining writing, performance, and text-analysis workshops are designed to meet individual curriculum needs. 10-20 sessions, up to 3 classes per day, which can focus on a single play or scenes from different plays. A student-performance option can also be negotiated.



Shows and programs are available throughout the Tri-State area.  
Email us at [contact@newperspectivestheatre.org](mailto:contact@newperspectivestheatre.org) or call 212-630-9945

# World Voices

**World Voices uses the fable format to dramatize stories and folk tales from different cultures that illustrate the strong common bonds among all people.**

Throughout history, fables have been used as a way to pass on traditions and to teach valuable life lessons. These stories speak to universal themes with simplicity and clarity. The need to respect ourselves and others, the value of cooperation, a belief in self, and the acquisition of wisdom are the foundations of this genre.

Each play uses an engaging mix of puppets and live actors. All shows are 50–60 minutes and include a participatory game or activity related to the story.

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Students learn to value the literary, oral, and cultural traditions of world societies.

**“The mix of puppetry and live actors kept my class *EXCITED*. It was a fabulous performance!”**

– M. Kruger, PS46

## **The Wild Boy: A Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Tale**



A Seneca mother and father are upset over their wild little boy's bad behavior. The boy becomes lost in the woods and is adopted by a mother bear and her daughter. The bears “tame” the boy by teaching him cooperation and courtesy. He returns to his family transformed. Grades pre-K–4.

## **Steal Away: The Living History of Harriet Tubman**



Based on the life of a true American heroine, *Steal Away* tells the inspirational story of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and her courage in leading people to freedom via the Underground Railroad. We also learn about her lifelong efforts to help those in need. Grades K–5.

## **The Big Mouth Mouse: A Japanese Folk Tale**



Masato Mouse, over the objections of his wife, hatches hair-brained schemes to marry their daughter to the mighty Sun; then to the Cloud, the Wind, and finally the Wall. But Masato eventually learns that sometimes there's nothing greater than a mouse. Grades K–5.

## **The Bad Birthday: A Mexican Fable**



A twin brother and sister decide to bake themselves a birthday cake. When they ask their neighbors for help, the greedy neighbors agree to donate the ingredients in exchange for pieces of the cake. Soon, all of the cake is promised to other people. But before the twins' birthday

is over, everyone in town learns the value of cooperation. Available in English and Spanish versions. Grades K–5.

## **The Lucky Brothers: A Tale From the Near East**



Two Armenian brothers feel they're cursed with bad luck when a series of misfortunes befall them. Their mother teaches them that they make their own luck. They use this knowledge to outwit their evil neighbor and the King, who are plotting to steal the brothers' farm. Grades K–5.

## **The Adventures of Rubbish in the 'Hood**



This version of *Robin Hood* takes place right here in NYC. Unlike the original Robin, who took from the rich, our Robert Hood takes from everyone — because he's a sanitation worker! Robert and his merry band discover that litter is increasing. When they battle against the Trash Monster, they enlist everyone's help in defeating it. The audience joins in for fun and games that teach us all a valuable lesson about protecting our environment. Grades K–8.

### **BLUEPRINT CRITERIA**

- Understanding Theatre History
- Responding to Theatre Performance
- Connecting Theatre to the Arts and Other Disciplines: Students explore how other art forms are incorporated into theatre.

### **BLUEPRINT CRITERIA**

- Connecting Theater to Personal Experience, Community, and Society Through an Exploration of Themes, Culture, and History

**“When I asked teachers what assembly program they wanted this year, the answer was unanimous! They all wanted NPT's World Voices program to come back.”** – T. Callieri, PS22

**Plan your Arts Programming around your curriculum with special performances geared towards the study of Black History, Women's History, Native Americans, etc.**

#### **FALL SEMESTER PERFORMANCE OFFERINGS INCLUDE\***

- *The Wild Boy* • *The Bad Birthday* • *Shakespeare's Fools*
- *Shakespeare's Leading Ladies* • *Romeo & Juliet*

#### **SPRING SEMESTER PERFORMANCE OFFERINGS INCLUDE\***

- *Steal Away: The Living History of Harriet Tubman* • *The Big Mouth Mouse*
- *The Lucky Brothers* • *Motley, Mad & Marriage: A Shakespeare Vaudeville*
- *Shakespeare's Leading Ladies* • *Macbeth*

\*Performances are also available for weekends, after school, summer school, and summer camp. We are able to offer most shows with three weeks' advance notice.

**Performance prices range between \$6 & \$10 per child. Workshop and Residency prices are individually negotiated.**



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# Dramatiques

**Dramatiques uses the tools of the theatrical trade to help young people develop the communication, observation, coordination, and literacy skills necessary for constructive self-expression and citizenship.**

By learning to understand the human condition through drama, dance, history, and writing, young people develop a heightened awareness of “what makes people tick.” This process expands their view of their own potential and gives them the techniques necessary to reach their goals.

Dramatiques workshops are offered year round — with a minimum of three weeks’ advance notice.

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Students develop the means to express their own vision and ideas.

## **Sharing Stories: Introduction to Monologues**

Students explore the basic concepts of narrative storytelling and theatre as an historical/socio-political genre; learn dramatic writing techniques for the creation of personal monologues from their own life experience; and share their monologues with the class. Five sessions. Grades 4–12.

## **Sharing Stories II: A Tapestry of Tales**

Expands on the introductory program to include rehearsal techniques, editing, and performing work for the school community. The presentation weaves the monologues together into a cohesive performance piece. Minimum of 10 sessions. Grades 4–12.

### **BLUEPRINT CRITERIA**

- Understanding of dramatic structure and theatre traditions: Students apply imaginative, analytical, and process skills to the creation of original dramatic works.



***“I learned that my self-consciousness comes from myself, and therefore I am the person that can change it!”***

– Student Participant of a NPT writing and drama residency at the School for the Physical City

## **Playtime**

Students explore the basic elements of dramatic writing — structure, character, conflict, message — and collaboratively write, rehearse and perform a 30- to 45-minute play around a selected theme. Minimum of 20 sessions. Grades 4–12.



## **Theatre Games: Introduction to Acting**

Introduction to the basics of acting through selected theatre games that develop listening and observation skills, build trust, and encourage teamwork and collaboration. Kids also discover the connection between physical movement and vocalization. Five sessions. Grades K–12.

## **Theatre Games II: Instant Theatre**

This workshop adds dialogue to the movement and sound foundation. Students create instant theatre through structured improvisation and role-play, using stories from history, their own personal experience, or issues of special concern to them. Kids learn that theatre can be a powerful medium for expressing their thoughts and feelings. Minimum of 10 sessions. Grades 4–12.

### **OTHER WORKSHOP OPTIONS:**

- Period Dance
- Commedia Dell’Arte
- Theatre History
- Mask Work
- Public Speaking/Communication Skills
- Production Design (Sets & Costumes)
- Staged Combat



## **About New Perspectives Theatre Company**

New Perspectives Theatre Company (NPT) has been offering award-winning multicultural theatre and arts-in-education programs to NYC audiences since 1991. All education programs provide standards-based arts instruction and are grounded in professionally sound and academically rigorous methodologies. Each program addresses the four NYS Learning Standards for the Arts at multiple levels, the new Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts: Theatre, and ArtsCount.

The programs also emphasize the development of literacy skills and therefore address many of the English Language Arts standards. NPT’s multiracial ensemble strengthens its work with the school population — artists from students’ own backgrounds serve as positive role models — and exposure to diverse artists working together in a professional, respectful environment helps young people develop new skills for communication and collaboration.

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