



THE
AMERICAN PLACE
THEATRE
LITERATURE
TO **LIFE**

TEACHING ARTIST Recruitment and Training Application

APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST:

Descriptions for each of the following are found within this application. Additional information about The American Place Theatre and its programs may be found at literaturetolife.org or by calling 212.594.4482.

Microsoft Word Document or multi-page PDF including:

- Cover letter with a brief statement of purpose
- Three (3) professional references
- Resumé and/or CV
- Original theatre lesson plan

PDF Document scan of your letter of recommendation

EMAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:

edu@americanplacetheatre.org

APPLICATION MATERIALS DUE: July 8, 2011

AUDITION: Week of August 1st, 2011

TRAINING DATES: August 24, 25, 26,
August 29, 30, 31,
September 1, 2, 2011

ABOUT *LITERATURE TO LIFE*®

The American Place Theatre's performance-based literacy program, *Literature to Life*, presents professionally-staged, verbatim adaptations of significant American literary works. This educational program gives students and communities a new form of access to literature by bringing to life the world of books with performances and arts-integrated curricula that create an atmosphere of discovery and spark the imagination.

Literature to Life encourages whole literacy (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), creative expression, critical thinking, and community engagement. The program has already provided a catalyst for learning and self-expression for over 450,000 students and hundreds of communities nationwide. The Theatre, having received over 30 Obies and 16 Audelcos, is critically acclaimed as a birthing place for artistic endeavors at the crossroad of literature and live performance for 50 years.

ABOUT *LITERATURE TO LIFE* STAGE PRESENTATIONS

A *Literature to Life* Stage Presentation is a professionally staged verbatim theatrical adaptation of a significant work of American literature for local and national student and community audiences.

A Teaching Artist orchestrates in-depth, interactive discussions both before and after the performance, helping audiences make personal connections to and engage meaningfully and critically with literature. Our Teaching Artists employ their educational theatre expertise to develop thought-provoking conversations that mine key literary themes and the historical, social, and political implications of the material.

As representatives of *Literature to Life*, our Teaching Artists manage the Stage Presentation experience: serving as on-site liaisons to teachers and students; masterfully facilitating audience discussions; and performing limited stage management and technical theatre functions.

ABOUT *LITERATURE TO LIFE* RESIDENCIES

The *Literature to Life* Residency is a 2-16 week program for elementary, middle, and high school students designed to encourage self-expression and develop advanced literacy and drama skills.

A Teaching Artist visits a classroom once or twice a week and fosters improved reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, and provides a forum for students to discuss, analyze, and critique the world around them. Our Teaching Artists use a variety of creative drama techniques and educational theatre strategies, such as role-play, improvisation, teacher-in-role, process drama, forum theatre, free/journal writing, interviews, mantle of the expert, tableaux, and much more. We seek applicants who have familiarity and practice with these techniques.

THE
AMERICAN PLACE
THEATRE
LITERATURE
TO LIFE

ABOUT *LITERATURE TO LIFE* TEACHING ARTIST TRAINING

Teaching Artist Training is an integral 8 day training session for professional teaching artists in specific preparation for leading *Literature to Life* Residencies and managing *Literature to Life* Stage Presentations, including pre- and post-show interactive discussions. Our methodology builds literacy and activates the teaching of theatre, language arts, social studies, personal development, and other content areas through drama-in-education techniques. We strive to provide teaching artists with the tools and support required for maximum impact, while allowing them day-to-day control over lesson planning, implementation, and assessment of the specific needs of their classroom.

The training includes general sessions on classroom management, curriculum planning, and drama resource development. All sessions will focus specifically on exploring themes of books on the *Literature to Life* roster.

Our primary goal for Teaching Artist Training is to orient professional Teaching Artists to the *Literature to Life* methodology and to advance their classroom practice to effectively integrate into the theatre, language arts, character education, and social studies curricula.

BENEFITS TO TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Literature to Life will select up to 15 participants in the New York metro area to participate in its Teaching Artist Training. Each accepted participant will receive a modest stipend for her/his participation in the Training. Upon completing the Training, each Teaching Artist will be better equipped to plan and teach arts-integrated curricula, address state and nationally mandated learning standards, articulate the criteria for successful learning outcomes, design appropriate assessment tools, devise drama-in-education activities, facilitate interactive discussions with large student and community audiences, and render technical elements of stagecraft. Those who are selected and interested may, with the additional Masters Training Program, be invited to lead *Literature to Life* Residencies and/or manage/facilitate at *Literature to Life* Stage Presentations, and will be fully compensated variable with the circumstances of the program.

ELIGIBILITY

Literature to Life Teaching Artist Training is open to participants in the New York City area. Our Teaching Artists will be recruited from 3 areas:

1. Professional Teachers and Teaching Artists
2. Students (working towards a Master's degree with related field experience)
3. Professional Theatre Artists with classroom experience

We find each of these backgrounds yields effective teachers, all of whom bring unique experiences to the *Literature to Life* training sessions and work with students and audiences. All of our Master Teaching Artists have come from one of these arenas.

All participants must be available to attend all required training sessions, scheduled August 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, and September 1 and 2, 2011.

Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Qualified applicants will be considered without discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, marital or parental status, race, religion or creed, sex or gender, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, or any other basis in law.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be reviewed by the education staff of The American Place Theatre's *Literature to Life* program. Selection will be based upon the following:

- Complete and accurate application materials
- Teaching and artistic experience and qualifications
- References and letter of recommendation
- Demonstration of a dramatic learning activity and post-activity reflective questioning, and evidence of theatre artistry in an audition setting

THE
AMERICAN PLACE
THEATRE
LITERATURE
TO LIFE

TRAINING CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION LEVEL 1: LITERATURE TO LIFE FOUNDATIONS

All those accepted into *Literature to Life's* Teaching Artist Training will begin with the Level 1 Foundations Training Intensive, August 24, 25 and 26, 2011.

August 24, 2011

9AM-5PM --- "Introduction to *Literature to Life*"

Participants will have an introduction to the *Literature to Life* methodology - its evolution and unique arts-integrated approach to literacy and learning. Participants will experience a preview performance of one of our *Literature to Life* Stage Presentations, as a way to begin the process of examining literary source material through drama using *Literature to Life's* methods.

August 25, 2011

9AM-1PM --- "The Art of the Pre- and Post-Show"

Participants will gain understanding of the educational aim and goals of *Literature to Life* Stage Presentations. The program's unique approach to interactive pre and post-show facilitation will be explored including how to actively engage audiences with the multiple contexts in which a work of literature is situated (historical, social, political, personal, etc.), and how to connect literary themes to real-world issues and individual concerns. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding the dynamics of different audiences and venues in a range of communities. From national presenting venues to public school classrooms, from primary school students to adult learners, this training will examine how to generate the most meaningful experience for each audience surrounding a *Literature to Life* Stage Presentation.

2PM-5PM --- "Putting it into Action: Part 1"

Participants will have an introduction to *Literature to Life's* unique planning tool – The Matrix as a way to thematically break down source material and align Units of Study with story elements to begin the process of constructing a residency.

August 26, 2011

9AM-5PM --- "Putting it into Action: Part 2"

Participants will have a chance to interactively explore how to mold flexible drama-in-education tools around themes from the literature by devising and leading their own original classroom exercises. Emphasis will be put on backwards mapping and assessment.

TRAINING CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION LEVEL 2: MASTERS TRAINING PROGRAM

Upon successful completion of the Level 1 Foundations Training Intensive, participants will be invited to join *Literature to Life's* Level 2 Masters Training Program, August 29, 30, 31 and September 1 and 2, 2011.

August 29, 30, 31 and September 1, 2011

9AM-NOON --- "Core Competencies"

Participants will deepen their understandings of the core competencies required for successful teaching artistry and reflect on their own creative and classroom practices. Guest artist workshop topics will include classroom management, student assessment, an overview of advanced literacy terminology and techniques, and other facets of teaching artistry pertinent to *Literature to Life's* methodology.

August 29, 30, 31 and September 1, 2011

1PM-5PM --- "Book Committees"

Participants will join veteran *Literature to Life* Master Teaching Artists to experience preview performances of Stage Presentations and serve on select corresponding book committees in preparation for upcoming fall Stage Presentations and Residencies. Emphasis will be put on understanding the source material, its associated themes, and practical application of drama-in-education techniques. Participants are required to serve on two (2) book committees, but may choose to join up to four (4) committees. Participation on a book committee is a pre-requisite to work with its respective book in *Literature to Life* Residencies and Stage Presentations.

September 2, 2011

9AM-NOON --- "Culmination and Reflection"

THE
AMERICAN PLACE
THEATRE
LITERATURE
TO LIFE

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Applicants for the *Literature to Life*® Teaching Artist Training must submit the following for consideration:

- Names, titles and contact information for three (3) professional references
- Resumé and/or CV (You may include both teaching resumé and artistic resumé)
- One (1) professional letter of recommendation**
- An original theatre lesson plan*** created to teach theme(s) specific to one of the books on the *Literature to Life* roster. The lesson should draw upon or reflect particular ideas, characters, concepts, and/or brief text excerpts from the book. (For a complete list of our titles, please visit www.americanplacetheatre.org/roster. Please be aware that, if invited to our audition**** round, you will be asked to prepare/facilitate a brief (7-8 minute) segment of the lesson plan for our hiring committee and other auditionees.
- A cover letter that includes a brief statement of purpose, describing what you can contribute to our Teaching Artist Training program, and how participation in the training will further your professional goals.

Letter of Recommendation: All applicants must provide at least one (1) letter of recommendation from a professor or professional in your field who can comment on your ability to become a committed and successful member of our team of teaching artists. Letter must be signed, scanned, and submitted electronically with your application materials. **Please do not send recommendation letter separately.

***Lesson Plan: All applicants must include one (1) original lesson plan that demonstrates their use of dramatic activity in the classroom. Lesson plans should demonstrate an arts-integrated approach and should use one of the titles from the *Literature to Life* roster as source material. Please indicate grade level and context of the lesson (IE: whether it's part of a longer residency or is a stand alone workshop).

****If you are invited to audition, you will be asked to prepare a short (4-5 minutes in length) demonstration of your facilitation of a dramatic activity, followed by 2-3 minutes of post-activity reflective questioning to help participants deepen critical thinking and personally respond to the activity. The activity and its associated reflective questions should be included within the lesson plan that you submit in your application.

All application materials and additional information about The American Place Theatre and its programs can be obtained at www.americanplacetheatre.org. For questions, please call 212.594.4482.

DEADLINES

Completed applications are due no later than July 8, 2011.

Invitations to auditions will begin no later than July 22, 2011 and will be scheduled for the week of August 1, 2011.

Notification will begin no later than August 12, 2011.

MATERIALS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO:

edu@americanplacetheatre.org in the following digital format:

- A single Microsoft Word Document or multi-page PDF including all of the following: 1. Cover Letter 2. Three (3) Professional References 3. Resumé 4. Original Lesson Plan
- A single PDF Document scan of your letter of recommendation

THE
AMERICAN PLACE
THEATRE
LITERATURE
TO LIFE