

ELIZABETH KARR

Theater Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Elizabeth Karr is a working actor in theatre, film and television for twenty years. TV appearances include *Womens Murder Club*, *House*, *ER*, *Veronica Mars*, *Sleeper Cell*, *The West Wing*, and *Young & Restless*. Elizabeth is a high profile member of the LA Theatre Community--Chairman of the Board of Classical Theatre Lab, Artistic Director of Cedarburg Productions and Company Member of Pacific Resident Theatre. She has produced and/or starred in many critically acclaimed plays on both coasts and in between, and is the Grantee/Producer of West Hollywood/Classical Theatre Lab/Cedarburg Production's Free Shakespeare in the Parks (inaugural season 2007 and 2008). Elizabeth also works as a Casting Director and is a co producer on her first feature film, *Radio Free Albemuth*, an adaptation of a Phillip K Dick novel. She produced a sitcom pilot for the Disney Channel, *Virtually Casey*, based on her experiences as 'Netgirl' (girl-next-door Cyber Dear Abby) for AOL.

Elizabeth has taught Improvisation and Acting in CBS Comedy on The Lot to grades K thru 12, CCUSD, LAUSD, and Theatricum Botanicum. She is currently a Resident Teaching Artist with (Out)Law & Order, a year-long program in which 8th graders write and perform plays and poetry. She is a private Audition Coach for children and adults, as well as donating her teaching abilities to under-served youth in homeless shelters and parochial schools.

Elizabeth is a graduate of the Professional Artist School-Based Training Program in collaboration with the Armory Center for the Arts and the Music Center, and a graduate of Cornell University with Honors and the British American Drama Academy.

Her teaching goal is for students to access the artistic spirit in their hearts, through nurturing and guidance, and for students to develop an appreciation for theatre arts and to discover how drama experiences enhance their lives in school and at home.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

Creating Characters: Students use imagination, research, and improvisation to create, write and perform character monologues of historical and literary figures. Students develop writing skills and journaling by keeping their own Playbook. Tuning the actors' instrument—voice projection and articulation, body movement, emotional expression, and imagination—is a part of every session. Artist models an original monologue each week. Role-playing characters they are studying in the curriculum deepens children understanding and comprehension. While having fun!

Narrative Theatre: Students gain a firm foundation of Improvisation and acting techniques (The Actors' Tool Box) and use them to interpret and explore a fairy/folk tale (or other work of fiction), bringing the characters to life in a play they create and perform. Experiential and reflective, students discover that acquiring drama skills enriches their ability to express themselves in Art and Life.

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Elizabeth collaborates with the classroom teacher to connect the arts with the curriculum. She is able to differentiate her teaching techniques and style to accommodate students of varying abilities. Her wide teaching experience in different socio-economic settings has increased her excellent classroom management skills. Modeling is a part of every lesson. Throughout the workshop series, students will reflect on what they have learned and make connections to other areas of the curriculum.

Each residency culminates in performance of monologues, plays or narrative theatre, depending on the grade level and teacher's preference.

Elizabeth's workshops are founded in the knowledge that acting techniques deepen children's learning experience by enhancing self-expression, communication, confidence, understanding and collaboration. Every role a child plays is an opportunity to learn something more about themselves.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Please make sure that each student has a special notebook for Drama Class, their “Play Book”. Students will make notes, journal and write their original monologues. Long after the teaching artist leaves, the student can continue to add to their Playbook, building on the skills they have learned.
- Discuss the different types of theatre the students have been exposed to, and the different places where they seen a play or watched actors perform. Discuss when they have acted (role-played) in their everyday lives: Playing House, Playing School. What else?
- Grades K thru 2: Read and discuss the fairy tale(s) that Elizabeth’s Theatre Arts Workshop will focus on.
- Grades 3 thru 12: Lead a class discussion on what literary or historical figures the students would like to bring to life. If the workshop is focusing on writing or performing a play from a particular historical period, discuss what it was like to live during that time.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What were the most important ideas? What parts of the workshop did the students like best? What did they learn about acting, characters and story telling? What did they learn about themselves? How do they use those skills in other areas of their life?
- Encourage the students to journal their theatre arts experience in their Playbooks, reflecting on what they have learned, keeping notes on acting techniques, and writing original performance pieces (plays or monologues).