

NEW FEDERAL THEATRE WORKSHOPS

2009 -2010

Registration for New Federal Theatre's ACTING and PLAYWRITING Workshops for the 2nd SEMESTER / 2009 season has now begun.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

1st Semester: Friday, October 2, 2009

CLASSES BEGIN:

2nd Semester: Monday, October 5, 2009 at 6:30pm

SCENE @ NEW FEDERALTHEATRE RECITAL: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 Time: TBA

ACTING WORKSHOP

A Course in Acting Technique

Conducted by actor and drama coach

ALICE SPIVAK

The NFT Acting Workshop is designed to build a solid foundation in a personal acting technique. The course – a scene study/monologue workshop – meets once a week for acting technique and scene study. This course will culminate into SCENE @ New Federal, a recital sampling of new theatrical works written and performed by students in both the Acting and Writing programs.

WHEN:

MONDAYS at 6:30pm to 9:30pm

WHERE:

NFT Administrative offices / 292 Henry Street, NYC

COST:

\$100/ New Students

\$90 / Return Students

PLAYWRIGHT'S WORKSHOP

"It's all about the language..."

The NFT Playwright's course allows participants the opportunity to have their plays developed in class. This course will end with SCENE @ New Federal, a recital sampling of new theatrical works written and performed by students in both the Acting and Writing programs.

NEW FEDERAL WRITING Instructors for the 2009/2010 Season include*:

MICHAEL DINWIDDIE, KERMIT FRAZIER, P.J. GIBSON*, PAUL CARTER HARRISON, LAURENCE HOLDER, CASSANDRA MEDLEY, NTOZANKE SHANGE

WHEN:

MONDAYS - 6:30pm to 9:30pm

WHERE:

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COST:

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*Writing participants will be notified of any changes regarding additional or guest instructors.

INSTRUCTOR BIOS



ALICE SPIVAK Having trained at the HB Studio with Herbert Berghof and Uta Hagen; Alice Spivak was made a teacher there in 1962, and taught on their faculty for fifteen years. Since that time, she has been a popular free-lance acting teacher and acting coach, teaching advanced classes in NYC, and coaching on numerous feature films, Broadway shows, regional shows, TV mini-series, pilots, etc., receiving technical credits on a few. She also taught Film Directing Workshops and was granted the Indie Award by The Association of Video and Filmmakers in 1977. In 1981, she was on the faculty of NYU Film Grad School, teaching the course, Directing Actors, in the 2nd year. In 2003-4, she again taught this course, this time at Columbia Film Grad School. As an actress, she has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway and in regional theatre (receiving the Joseph Jefferson Award in Chicago in 1975 for Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*). Most recently, she appeared off-Broadway in Ossie Davis' play, *Last Dance for Sybil*. On television, audiences have seen her in *Law & Order*, *Sex & the City*, *Law & Order CSI*, etc., and as a regular on Sidney Lumet's *100 Centre Street*. Her book: "*How To Rehearse When There Is No Rehearsal - Acting and the Media*", is currently on the shelves - **CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO ON THE NEW BOOK.**



MICHAEL D. DINWIDDIE teaching interests include cultural studies, African American theatre history, dramatic writing, filmmaking, and ragtime music. A dramatist whose works have been produced in New York, regional, and educational theatre, he has been playwright-in-residence at Michigan State University and St. Louis University and taught writing courses at the College of New Rochelle, Florida A&M University, SUNY Stony Brook, California State University at San Bernardino, and Universidad de Palermo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He spent a year at Touchstone Pictures as a Walt Disney Fellow and worked as a staff writer on ABC-TV's *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*. In 1994 he was a Sundance finalist, and in 1995, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Playwriting. A Gallatin graduate, Professor Dinwiddie earned his M.F.A. in dramatic writing from the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. His course offerings include Migration and American Culture; Dramatizing History I and II; Poets in Protest: Footsteps to Hip-Hop; James

Reese Europe and American Music; Sissle, Blake, and the Minstrel Tradition; Guerrilla Screenwriting; and the study abroad course Culture, Art, and Politics in 21st-Century Buenos Aires. Professor Dinwiddie received NYU's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2005.



P.J. GIBSON holds a M.F.A in Theatre Arts from Brandeis University and a B.A. in Drama, Religion and English from Keuka College. To date she has written thirty plays, several of which have totaled forty-seven productions, *Long Time Since Yesterday* has alone had upwards of sixty productions. She has been the recipient of many honors including the Bushfire Theatre of Performing Arts Seventh Annual “Walk of Fame”, a Shubert Fellowship for the study of dramatic writing, a playwriting grant from National Endowment for the Arts; two prestigious Audelco Awards for *Long Time Since Yesterday*, a PSC-CUNY Research Award grant to ‘shadow’ four African-American female judges for her upcoming play *Rotating* and five playwriting commissions. Ms. Gibson’s plays and poetry performances have been presented throughout the United States, Europe and Africa.

In addition to her writing, Ms. Gibson is an Associate Professor of English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City where she teaches Literature, English, Fiction Writing, and Poetry courses. She has taught a graduate course in Black Theatre at the Levin Theatre – Douglass College Campus, Rutgers University; playwriting at Playwrights Horizons in NYC and the Bushfire Theater in Philadelphia, and Theatre, English, and film-related courses for summer sessions at the University of California at Berkeley. She has been an Artist-In-Residence at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She holds a Proclamation from the city of Trenton, New Jersey and a “Key to the City” from Indianapolis, Indiana.



KERMIT FRAZIER has been a teacher and professional writer –principally a playwright and television writer – for more than twenty years. He was an associate professor of English and coordinator of the creative writing concentration at Morgan State University. Mr. Frazier also taught at Williams College, Baruch College (CUNY), New York University, and Chicago State University. He has an A.B. and M.A. in English from Syracuse University and an M.F.A. from the New York University School of the Arts Theater Program.

With more than a dozen plays produced in New York and around the country, Mr. Frazier's written for several television series, including the popular children's mystery series *Ghostwriter*, which he helped to create and for which he served as a head writer; *Gullah Gullah Island* (co-produced and executive story supervisor); *The Cosby Mysteries*; *Married People*; *Rescue 77*; and *The Misadventures of Maya and Miguel*. He also served as acting president of the venerable Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center, where he coordinated writing, acting, and photography workshops, the staged reading series of new plays, and the annual Black Roots Festival of Poetry, Prose, Music, and Drama.



CASSANDRA MEDLEY is the recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Grant and New York State Council on the Arts Grant. She was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award in Playwriting, and won the 1990 National Endowment for the Arts Grant in Playwriting, the New Professional Theatre Award, the Marilyn Simpson Award, the

Theatrefest Regional Playwriting Award for Best Play in 2001, 2002 Ensemble Studio Theatre 25th Anniversary Award for Theatre Excellence, the 2004 "Going to the River Writers" Life Achievement Award and AUDELCO'S August Wilson Playwriting Award in 2006. Most recently produced plays include: *Noon Day Sun*, *Relativity*. *Ms. Mae* is one of several individual sketches, which comprise the Off-Broadway musical, *A... My Name Is Alice*. *Alice* was first produced at the "Women's Project and Productions," received the 1984 Outer Critics Drama Award, the show continues to play in regional theatres across the U.S. Other works include *Dearborn Heights*, *Waking Women*, *Maiden Lane*, and *Ma Rose*. Her works has been published in Broadway Play Publishing, Samuel French "Best Plays of 1995-96 by Dramatists Play Service and Faber and Faber. She teaches playwriting at Sarah Lawrence College and New York University, also served as guest artist at Columbia University, the University of Iowa



LAURENCE HOLDER is a major African American playwright who has specialized in presenting tales and myths about some of the Diaspora's most famous and interesting figures compelling the attention of historian, educators and theatergoers. He has been nominated many times and won writing awards from AUDELCO, the Audience Development Committee that acknowledged excellence in the field of African Diaspora theatre for more than 30 years. His plays are regularly acknowledged for excellence by the number of nominations and awards they receive in all categories, including acting, directing, staging, set design, music and producing. He has been awarded the Garland Anderson Award for his the body of his work by The Black National Theatre of the United States, and most recently he received the first OTTO Award for political writing, awarded by the internationally known Castillo Theatre. He began writing plays, late 1960s; created television series, *Watch Your Mouth*, that ran on New York station WNET and on NBC television, 1974-75; historical musical *Juba* presented by La MaMa ETC, 1978; *When the Chickens Came Home to Roost*, 1982; *Zora Neale Hurston: A Theatrical Biography*, one of five plays dealing with Hurston, 1990; *M: The Mandela Saga*, 1995; *Monk*, 2000; has taught at New York University, South Mountain Community College, Mercy College, The College of New Rochelle, and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. A tenured faculty member of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. He is the son Goldie and Wilton Holder, the father of three and the devoted husband to Andrea.



NTOZAKE SHANGE is a playwright, dancer, actor, director, author, lecturer, installation artist, and poet .Shange is best-known for her Obie Award winning play, FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENOUF. She also wrote BETSY BROWN, a novel about an African American girl who runs away from home. Among her honors and awards are fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, and a Pushcart Prize. She received a NDEA fellow, 1973; Obie Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Audience Development Committee (Audelco) Award, Mademoiselle Award, and Tony, Grammy, and Emmy award nominations, all 1977, all FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENOUF Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop Award, 1978; Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry, 1981, for Three Pieces; Guggenheim fellowship, 1981; Medal of Excellence, Columbia University, 1981; Obie Award, 1981, for MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN; Nori Eboraci Award, Barnard College, 1988; Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund annual writer's award, 1992; Paul Robeson Achievement Award, 1992; Arts and Cultural Achievement Award, National

Coalition of 100 Black Women (Pennsylvania chapter), 1992; Taos World Poetry Heavyweight Champion, 1992, 1993, 1994; Living Legend Award, National Black Theatre Festival, 1993; Claim Your Life Award, WDAS-AM/FM, 1993; Monarch Merit Award, National Council for Culture and Art; Pushcart Prize