

A Note from the New Director of Education

Hi! I'm excited to be the new Education Director at Ocala Civic Theatre. I've recently relocated from New York City, where I worked professionally as a performing artist, director, teaching artist, and arts administrator for well over fifteen years.

After winning the Shelby Leigh Griffith Acting Memorial Scholarship in my hometown of Mays Landing, New Jersey, I went on to study musical theater at HB Acting Studio in Greenwich Village. A proud member of the Actors' Equity Association, I have enjoyed performing throughout the country. Highlights include touring *The People Who Could Fly and Other Tales* to the Cincinnati Playhouse, portraying Mary Magdalene in the longest-running Passion Play in the United States, and singing in concerts as far north as Juneau, Alaska.

My teaching artist career really began and was shaped by the late Joe Hart and The Shoestring Players. Over five years, I taught for and served as the Associate Director of Education, providing in-school theater residencies for hundreds of elementary schools and thousands of children throughout the New Jersey and New York metro areas. There I began cultivating my directing/teaching technique that emphasized the strength of the *ensemble*, the power of the *imagination*, and the magic of *co-creating*.

When I moved into New York City, I began working as a master teaching artist. I specialized in after-school theater and musical theater Creative Youth Development (CYD) Programs primarily for middle and high schools. My intentional practice combined skill building and hands-on artmaking with the development of life skills.

Summer "vacations" afforded me the great honor of serving on the directing faculty of the world-renowned, residential, pre-professional Interlochen Performing Arts Camp in Michigan and Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp in Colorado. I've also had the pleasure of directing youth in plays for Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre and Perseverance Theatre, both in Alaska, to name only a few.

At the New School, I continued my own development as a professional artist and educator by studying creative writing and drama therapy, while working with Dr. Christopher Roselli at Mannes School of Music. This helped guide my expansion into adult education. Over the last five years, I created and facilitated professional development workshops on topics ranging from *Creative Lesson Planning* to *Leading from the Positive* for clients including YMCA of Greater New York, Boys and Girls Club, and Harlem Children Zone.

Supporting and developing new educators has become an important facet of what I love to do. I created and facilitated a new program for Columbia University's Teachers' College called *Introduction to Classroom Presence*. And most recently, I was responsible for the supervision and development of New York Edge's performing and visual arts specialists: 200 teaching artists who provided after-school arts programming at over 160 sites across the five boroughs of New York City.

Since starting here in September, I've been observing our education department, listening to parents, youth, and our teaching artists to **identify strengths and areas for improvement**. Development of our current and new staff is ongoing, and it is with great enthusiasm that **we** offer you these winter and spring programs!

We recognize the privilege and responsibility it is to be part of your youth's artistic family and appreciate the faith you have in us to provide them with the highest quality experiences. Ocala Civic Theatre's Education Department is committed to **building confidence, compassion, and community**.

My door is open. Please feel free to reach out any time.

Terry LeCompte
Director of Education
Phone: 352.236.2851, ext. 107
Email: TLecompte@OcalaCivicTheatre.com