Workshop Offerings 2026 Altoona

1. STO Workshop

Type: Leadership

Presenter: STO

Connection: STO

Synopsis: This workshop will only be offered during session A. STO candidates will be presenting prepared projects and each attending school will have the opportunity to vote for candidates as part of the selection process. Each Troupe should have at least 1 member attend the STO leadership workshop. All STO and STO Candidates must attend these sessions.

2. One Voice: Musical Theatre and Shakespeare

Type: A hybrid of Shakespeare/Voice for the Actor/Musical Theatre

Presenter: Joseph Domencic

Connection: Seton Hill University Department of Theatre and Dance

Synopsis: Musical Theatre songs and Shakespeare's dialogue have a lot in common, each requiring a dynamic, expressive voice! In this fun, playful workshop, we'll explore their similarities and practice techniques to make powerful choices both! No prep or experience with singing or Shakespeare required. Come ready to play.

Bio: Joseph Domencic is the chair of Seton Hill University's Department of Theatre and Dance in Greensburg, PA. He has worked for 34 years as an actor, music director, and composer/writer in productions with Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Sundance Theatre Lab, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, and The Acting Company (national tour). His writing work includes two children's musicals, The Next Galileo and Beyond the Moon (co-authored with his wife, Christina McCann). Beyond the Moon will be touring Western PA schools again this spring.

3. The Meisner Technique & The Keys to Great Acting

Type: Acting

Presenter: Robyn Cohen

Connection: The Cohen Acting Studio

Synopsis: What makes a great actor GREAT? In this highly interactive workshop, veteran stage and screen actor and acting coach Robyn Cohen introduces students to the Meisner technique and its legendary principle of "living truthfully under imaginary circumstances." Through playful, hands-on exercises, students will explore listening, connection, instinct, imagination, and what it means to be truly alive in the moment. Along the way, Robyn will share real-world insights from more than three decades as a professional actor, helping students discover what makes them unique, navigate the professional landscape, and begin creating exciting opportunities of their own. Come ready to play, take risks, connect, and ACT! 🎭

Bio: ROBYN COHEN is a professional actor, director, and acting coach with more than three decades of experience on stage and screen and nearly two decades teaching actors. A Juilliard graduate with an MFA from The Shakespeare Theatre Company, her television credits include FBI: International, NCIS, The Mentalist, Invasion, Gravity, The Closer, Starved, Cristela and 50+ national commercials. Her film work includes Wes Anderson's The Life Aquatic opposite Bill Murray, Fools Gold and The Celestine Prophecy. Her stage work spans Lincoln Center, The Geffen Playhouse, and the National Tour of the musical Cabaret. Robyn has worked alongside artists including Jeff Goldblum, Melanie Griffith, and Mary-Louise Parker. She is the founder of The Cohen Acting Studio, where she helps actors develop the craft, individuality, and courage to build creative lives they love.

4. Diction: The Power of Language Onstage

Type: Acting

Presenter: Aaron Dake

Connection: North Penn High School

Synopsis: Diction, Articulation, and Language Study are essential tools for every actor. In this workshop, you will discover techniques, strategies, and methods of using the language of a theatrical production effectively. Through acting exercises, script study, and monologue performance, attendees will learn what it truly means to have proper diction.

Bio: Aaron Dake is in his second year as North Penn High School's Theatre Director. He has been a student of theatre and education nearly his entire life, earning a Bachelor's in Communication and Theatre from Millersville University, and a Master's in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University. His favorite past productions include The Venetian Twins, Julius Caesar, The Crucible, Bare: A Pop Opera, Romeo and Juliet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. With a focus on theatre education through hands-on training, student leadership opportunities, positivity, and reflection, Mr. Dake is proud to represent North Penn Theatre.

5. Acting with Ease: Doing More by Doing Less

Type: Acting

Presenter: Charlie DelMarcelle

Connection: West Chester University

Synopsis: Discover the path to grounded, organic, repeatable, and relaxed performances. We'll play some lively warm-up games, do a little improv, and even dive into some simple scene work. Each exercise will introduce the foundations of fundamental acting training (defining objective, obstacle, and action) while bringing a greater sense of ease and playfulness to your work. Learn to let go of unnecessary tension and feel truly present in your work.

Bio: Charlie is a proud faculty member at West Chester University who has been working with students of all ages and abilities throughout the region for over 25 years. He is a multiple Barrymore Award (the Philadelphia region's Tony's) winning actor who has performed professionally at: Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre Co., Theater Horizon, Delaware Theatre Co., Inis Nua, Lantern Theatre, Azuka Theatre Collective, Act II Playhouse, Commonwealth Classic Theatre, and White Box Theatre. Charlie serves as the camp director of the Pennsylvania Theatre Institute, West Chester University's summer arts camp program which serves elementary and high school students.

6. System Not Method

Type: Acting

Presenter: Dan Evers

Connection: Seton Hill University

Synopsis: System Not Method: Inspired by my acting teacher, Svetlana Efremova (MFA-Yale, BFA St. Petersburg Academy) "System Not Method" dives into the acting system developed by the great acting teacher Konstantin Stanislavski. This workshop is designed to gain a deeper understanding of Stanislavski's System and to deliver practical exercises that will increase concentration and imagination.

Bio: Dan Evers serves as an Associate Professor of Theatre at Seton Hill University. A native of Texas, he relocated to Southern California in 2004 to pursue his MFA in Theatre at California State University, Fullerton. Upon completing his three-year program, he worked as an adjunct professor, director, dialect coach, and actor. He later moved to New York City, to further his acting career, and appeared in Off-Broadway, Off Off-Broadway productions, and a national tour. Professor Evers recently completed certification in Fitzmaurice Voicework in Ljubljana, Slovenia and is one of only three hundred certified teachers in the world.

7. Lucid Body Instructor

Type: Acting

Presenter: Lara García Landa

Connection: Movement Instructor at HB Studio.

Synopsis: Lucid Body is an acting technique focused on self-awareness as the foundation for character development. Through fast-paced improvisation, participants will physically explore different sides of human emotion. Students will then apply these tools to create a character completely different from themselves.

Bio: Lara García Landa is NYC-based actor, director, and fight choreographer. She is a certified Lucid Body teacher and currently serves as the movement instructor at HB Studio. Lara also teaches stage combat and works as a freelance fight and intimacy director for theater and film. She holds a theater degree from NYU Tisch.

8. Performance Poetry

Type: Acting

Presenter: Dorothea Hackett

Connection: DuBois Area High School

Synopsis: Ever think poems are just to be read? NO! Poems can become scripts. Apply your imagination and turn poetry into performance.

Bio: Dorothea Hackett is an English teacher and theater director at DuBois Area High School. She is also on the PA Thespian State Board.

9. Babble Jazz

Type: Acting

Presenter: Nicole Mattis

Connection: Frostburg State University

Synopsis: In this acting-based workshop, participants will engage in vocal and physical improv-based exercises, leading to vocal playfulness, ease, expression, and connection on stage.

Bio: Nicole Mattis is an Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework and Professor of Theatre at Frostburg State University, where she teaches classes in acting, voice and movement, and dialects. Also a director, she oversees the FSU Roundabout Children's Theatre Tour, for which she directed the musicals "Nate the Great," "Blueberries for Sal," "How I Became a Pirate," and "Freckleface Strawberry." Last spring she also directed "The Revolutionists" at FSU and coached British dialects for "Pride and Prejudice" at The Cumberland Theatre. This winter, she will direct "The Moors" at Maryland Ensemble Theatre in Frederick, MD. She is excited to present the workshop "Babble Jazz" and meet with participants during the Pennsylvania Thespian Festival!

10. Consent in Motion: Trust and Vulnerability in Actor Training

Type: Acting

Presenter: Sean McCarther

Connection: Rider University

Synopsis: This workshop explores actor vulnerability using consent as a foundation for building trust between scene partners. Using movement-based partner exercises, participants will practice communication, boundary-setting, and responsiveness to develop trust with scene partners. The workshop demonstrates how consent-based practices can help actors build confidence, take creative risks, and embrace vulnerability on stage. Participants will leave with practical strategies for integrating these exercises into rehearsals and the classroom.

Bio: Sean McCarther serves as Professor of Musical Theater Voice and Chair of the Department of Performing Arts at Rider University, where he teaches applied voice to classical, musical theater, and music production majors, and movement for the actor. He is an advanced actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and the Academy of Fight Directors Canada and has trained with both Intimacy Directors and Coordinators and Theatrical Intimacy Education. Dr. McCarther's research interests span vocal pedagogy, peak performance psychology, expertise acquisition, motor learning, theatrical emotion, and consent-based rehearsal processes. His research appears in several peer-reviewed publications, and he frequently lectures and leads workshops nationally and internationally.

11. Acting in Accent

Type: Acting

Presenter: Allegra Ritchie

Connection: Penn State University

Synopsis: Accent work goes a long way toward building the world of a play, revealing a character's relationship to power, and creating a sense of time and place. In this workshop we will explore the basic skills of accent acquisition, discuss the dramaturgical importance of accent work, and learn/play in two contrasting accents to see how accent performance informs the acting task. No prior experience required!

Bio: Allegra Ritchie (she/her) is an Assistant Teaching Professor of Voice and Speech at the Penn State School of Theatre, and works as a speech and dialect coach for theatre and television. She holds a BA in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Puget Sound, an MFA in Acting and Theatre Arts from CSU Long Beach, and she is a certified teacher of Knight-Thompson Speechwork.

12. Dialects: How to Sound Like You're From Somewhere Else

Type: Acting

Presenter: Richard Sautter

Connection: McDaniel College

Synopsis: The voice is one of the most expressive parts of an actor's instrument. One of the things it expresses is where the character comes from. We will explore how to adapt your voice to fit a role, focusing on three of the most often used accents in stage and film work.

Bio: Richard Sautter is Lecturer of Theater Arts at McDaniel College. He has also taught and directed at Gettysburg College, Messiah College, and Carroll Community College. Principally an actor for 25 years, Richard has appeared on stages from Fargo to Fort Lauderdale. He also has written and performed several solo shows.

13. Finding the Game: Playing in Long-Form Improv

Type: Acting

Presenter: Michael Schwartz

Connection: Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Synopsis: Students will channel their characters, story-building skills, and their wildest impulses into finding a key source of surprise, depth, and (usually) laughter in long-form improv--the game. "The game" corresponds roughly to a theme or main action of a scene that the improv team can repeat, amplify, and exaggerate to its logical conclusion (and sometimes beyond). Finding and building upon this game is an extension of an important improv question: "If this is possible, then what else is possible?" Through games, exercises, and scene-building, students will discover and create those possibilities for themselves, their teammates, and their audience.

Bio: Michael Schwartz is a professor in the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has taught improv at IUP, the University of Pittsburgh, and Philly Improv Theatre, where he performed with one of their teams for several years. Michael has also taken workshops with the late Keith Johnstone (author of Impro) and Upright Citizens Brigade member Matt Besser.

14. Intro to Fitzmaurice Voicework

Type: Acting

Presenter: Kathleen Pirkl Tague

Connection: University of Delaware

Synopsis: "Fitzmaurice Voice Institute is recognized as the global leader in actor voice training for performance because of its wide-ranging impact on physical and mental well-being, personal and community empowerment, and its commitment to inclusion and to diversity." I am a professor of Voice and Speech at the U. of Delaware and a Certified Fitzmaurice Voicework teacher. My Workshop is an introduction to this voice training for actors and will include practice in "destructuring" and "restructuring" techniques. It is physical in nature and invites participant to engage in movement, breath and phonation.

Bio: Associate Professor of Theatre, Department of Theatre & Dance. BFA in Acting from UNC School of the Arts, MFA in Theatre from University of Delaware. Certified Fitzmaurice Voice Work® teacher and Knight-Thompson Speechwork® teacher. Professional stage actor for nearly forty years, member of AEA, and founding member of the Resident Ensemble Players.

15. Acting the Unknown: Performing New Work with Living Playwrights

Type: Acting

Presenter: Katie Trupiano

Connection: City Theatre Company

Synopsis: What's it like when the playwright is sitting in the rehearsal room? How do actors help develop a script that is still evolving? And what happens when there isn't a "right answer" yet? In this interactive session, students will explore the unique challenges and opportunities of performing new work. Through script analysis, rehearsal activities, and collaborative exercises, participants will learn how actors become creative partners in the development process while honoring a playwright's vision.

Bio: Katie Trupiano is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and has worked as a performer, teaching artist, and arts administrator for more than 15 years. Drawing on her training in musical theatre and experience in professional rehearsal rooms, she specializes in helping young artists develop confidence, creativity, and authentic voice through theatre. Katie currently serves as Director of Education & Accessibility at City Theatre Company.

16. Advocating for Advocacy

Type: Advocacy

Presenter: Andrea Roney

Connection: PA Thespians

Synopsis: How to tell the world -- or all those in your school, district, and community -- about the wonderful work you do by participating your theatre program and Thespian troupe and how you find your individual and collaborative voice! Theatre Arts Education should be available to all students in curricular and extra-curricular activities. Theatre Matters! Join us to learn about the HOW.

Bio: Andrea Lee Roney taught Theatre classes at North Penn High School, and ran the NPHS Theatre Program and Thespian Troupe for 20 years. She produced and co-directed over 40 plays and musicals, including the first PA high school production of Frozen. She has served on the PA Thespian Chapter Governing Board and spearheaded Advocacy work for Thespians, PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition, and EdTA.

17. Global Entertainment Opportunities for Theatre Students

Type: All Design and Production students and faculty

Presenter: Anne Medlock-Ely

Connection: University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Synopsis: Theatre practitioners have transferable skills for all positions in Global Entertainment, a $2.3 Trillion industry that ranges from traditional music, theatre, and dance performances to museum exhibits, devised entertainment, immersive experiences, and more. This session will discuss the opportunities people with theatre skills have after graduation in the Global Entertainment industry.

Bio: Anne Medlock is the Associate Dean of Design and Production at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She previously taught at West Texas A&M University and earned her MFA from Kent State University. She has worked in Higher Education for over 20 years and has designed a diverse multitude of plays and musicals.

18. What Are They Looking For? Inside the BFA Theatre Audition

Type: Audition

Presenter: Sean Patrick Gibbons

Connection: Wilkes University

Synopsis: What are college theatre programs really looking for in the audition room? This interactive master class takes the mystery out of the BFA audition process and explores what helps an audition stand out. We'll discuss choosing material that showcases your strengths, making confident performance choices, navigating the audition room, and avoiding common audition pitfalls.

Bio: Sean Patrick Gibbons (he/him) is a certified Intimacy Director with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, an Actor, Director, Voice and Movement specialist, and a Visiting Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre at Wilkes University. He has performed Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country. Member of Actor's Equity and SAG-AFTRA eligible.

19. Heart & Sew

Type: Costume

Presenter: Amanda Ferg

Connection: The Pennsylvania State University

Synopsis: In this hands-on holiday workshop, students will learn the basics of hand sewing while creating their own felt heart-shaped keepsake. Students will learn a simple and useful sewing technique, practice creating neat and secure stitches, and use their new skills to construct a finished felt heart that can be used as a decoration, ornament, gift, or personal keepsake.

Bio: Amanda Ferg is the Costume Workroom Supervisor and an instructor at Penn State, where she has worked for nine years. She specializes in showgirl costume construction and corsetry, with a passion for teaching practical, hands-on costume skills to the next generation of theatre artists.

20. Hue Knew: The Significance of Color Theory in Costuming

Type: Costume

Presenter: Charlotte Molitoris

Connection: Penn Manor High School

Synopsis: Dynamic costume design goes beyond matching outfits. It communicates subtext, character arc, and relationship dynamics through visual cues. In this interactive, hands-on workshop, students will explore the fundamentals of color theory (palette selection, contrast, saturation, and psychology) and learn how to apply them directly to character design.

Bio: Charlotte Molitoris coordinates and designs costumes for productions at Penn Manor High School in Millersville, Pennsylvania. Blending budget smarts with creative visual storytelling, Charlotte is passionate about showing young theatre artists how color, texture, and design choices transform a character.

21. Percussive Dance in Theatre

Type: Dance

Presenter: Alyssa Bigbee

Connection: Springfield Township High School

Synopsis: Stomp, Clap, Dance! From musicals like Newsies and Mary Poppins, students will groove to the rhythm and use their bodies as musical instruments. This workshop will lead participants through the foundations of step dance and using rhythm to enhance choreography through stomping, clapping, and percussive dance.

Bio: Alyssa is a producer, director, choreographer, and movement artist specializing in musical theater, hip hop, afro beats, step dance, and aerial arts. She founded her company Rebel Arts Movement, where she produces award-winning circus dance productions and choreographs for high school productions.

22. The Broadway Dance Experience!

Type: Dance

Presenter: Brian Curl

Connection: daily8count

Synopsis: Come and learn a fun combination from a Broadway-style show in this interactive session. Grab your confidence, bring some water, and get ready to dance! Dress comfortably and be prepared to move. Open to all levels: students and teachers.

Bio: Brian Curl is a professional teaching artist, actor, choreographer, director, and producer based out of Philadelphia, PA. Since 2008, Brian has been traveling the world teaching at conferences, high schools, and universities. In 2019, Brian founded daily8count.com, where he dances with thousands each week!

23. Partner Dancing in Musical Theater

Type: Dance

Presenter: Rebecca Gentry

Connection: Columbia Borough and Manheim Central School Districts

Synopsis: Ballroom dancing has had a long and successful relationship with Broadway, heavily influencing the movement vocabulary of musical theater dance. This class will serve as an introduction to the skills performers need to safely and confidently dance with another person on stage, building communication, trust, and spatial awareness.

Bio: Rebecca Gentry is a professionally trained ballet and ballroom dancer with experience in a myriad of dance styles. She is the owner of City Ballroom Dance Studio and the director of The Dance Collective. She has choreographed for numerous schools and community theaters and is an adjunct professor at Lebanon Valley College.

24. Performance Devising and Directing: Create, Collaborate, Respond!

Type: Directing

Presenter: David Kersnar

Connection: Penn State, College of Arts and Architecture, School of Theatre

Synopsis: Led by Penn State Professor David Kersnar, cofounder of the Tony Award-winning Lookingglass Theatre Company, this energetic 75-minute workshop invites students to explore theatre without starting with a script. Through improvisation, movement, voice, storytelling, and ensemble-building exercises, students will create original performance inspired by their communities.

Bio: David Kersnar is a Professor of Practice in the School of Theatre and Faculty Affairs Associate for the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State. A founding ensemble member of the Tony Award-winning Lookingglass Theatre Company, he has co-written and directed dozens of productions.

25. Performance Making

Type: Directing

Presenter: Ethan McKellar

Connection: The Pollock Center

Synopsis: Inspired by Ethan's experience in the B.A. Directing Program at Pace University, Performance Making explores the creative process of developing original theatrical works through unconventional sources of inspiration. Using sound, objects, locations, smells, and personal experiences, participants experiment with storytelling, movement, and collaborative creation.

Bio: Ethan McKellar is an arts administrator, director, educator, and producer dedicated to creating meaningful theatrical experiences for young artists. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Pollock Performing Arts Center and Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the Ridley Performing Arts Program.

26. Painting with Light: The Canvas, the Artist, and the Brush

Type: Lighting

Presenter: Travis McDonnell

Connection: Main Light LLC

Synopsis: Every scene, song, and speech is a canvas, and light is the brush. In this hands-on workshop, Travis McDonnell shows how lighting designers think: reading a moment, deciding what the audience should feel, and choosing angles, colors, and tools to paint it. Includes live demos with LED and moving lights.

Bio: Travis McDonnell has spent his career on every side of the lighting world, from console operator to Technical Director, moving light technician, and currently Account Executive at Main Light's Wilmington headquarters supporting theatre, dance, concerts, and corporate events.

27. Choose wisely: color in stage lighting

Type: Lighting

Presenter: Michael Mehler

Connection: Allegheny College

Synopsis: Whether working with gelled incandescents or full-spectrum LED units, making effective choices to support the production is the goal. This workshop will touch on how our eyes perceive color, color theory basics, and how colored light interacts with performers, costumes, and scenery.

Bio: Michael Mehler has designed scenery and lighting for theatre, dance, & opera for more than 30 years. He served on the Board of Directors of USITT and is a Fellow of USITT. He is Dean for Visual & Performing Arts and Professor of Theatre at Allegheny College.

28. Puppetry 101

Type: Puppetry

Presenter: Aretta Lynne Baumgartner

Connection: Teaching Artist Alliance

Synopsis: Puppets have been used to tell stories since theatre began. Learn about puppets from all over the world, dive into fun actor-to-puppeteer exercises, and discover the basics needed to bring ANY puppet to life! Discover how puppetry is a GREAT fit for ALL theatre-makers.

Bio: Aretta Baumgartner specializes in puppetry, mask, and movement. She's been a professional puppeteer since 1992 and served multiple terms as President of the Board of Directors for the Puppeteers of America and Education/Advocacy Director at Atlanta's Center for Puppetry Arts.

29. Visualization of your 3D Model in VectorWorks

Type: Scenic and Lighting Design

Presenter: Andrew Haag

Connection: Penn State University School of Theatre

Synopsis: This workshop helps to focus scenic and lighting designers' artistic abilities to make a striking visualization impact for their designs. Using tools inside VectorWorks, attendees will gain skills that help with the generation of 3D models, textures, lighting, and animations to show their artistic vision.

Bio: Andrew Haag is an instructor and faculty member in the School of Theatre at Penn State University. Projections, lighting, and sound design are his primary focus for theatre, with over 30 years of professional and academic experience.

30. Design It, Build it, Feel it. A scenic Designers Journey

Type: Scenic Design

Presenter: Stephanie Mayer-Staley

Connection: Point Park University

Synopsis: In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore the scenic design process from script analysis through concept development, drafting, model building, and production. Collaborate in a creative design challenge by rapidly constructing a 3D scale model that communicates emotion or atmosphere.

Bio: Stephanie Mayer-Staley is a multimedia artist and Professor of Scenic Design at Point Park University. Originally from Germany, her work spans scenic and lighting design, installation, land art, painting, photography, stone masonry, and basketry.

31. Nailing the Audition: The Perfect 16-32 Bars

Type: Singing/Vocal

Presenter: Kyleigh Pearce

Connection: Ridley High School - Vocal Director/ Assistant Director

Synopsis: "Nailing the audition" is an interactive vocal audition workshop designed for high school theater students to build confidence, strengthen vocal skills, select the right song, prepare 16-32 bars, develop healthy vocal technique, and connect emotionally to lyrics.

Bio: Kyleigh Pearce is a music educator, vocal teacher, and music director with eight years of experience. She holds a B.M. in Music Education from West Chester University and a Master's in Advanced Music Therapy from Immaculata University.

32. Line by Line Mixing for Theatre

Type: Sound

Presenter: TJ Schultz | **Connection:** The Pennsylvania State University

Synopsis: The workshop will feature a line-by-line musical mixing experience, where students will have the opportunity to try mixing along to popular Broadway songs, simulating what it is like to mix a musical in production.

Bio: Presented by Penn State sound design students. Maeve is a senior at Penn State studying sound design for theatre, with experience ranging from plays and musicals to large-scale concerts.

33. Sword Play!

Type: Stage Combat

Presenter: Brent Shultz | **Connection:** New York Theatre Workshop

Synopsis: Features heavy swashbuckling, stage combat, and dueling - students will pool-noodle sword their way to fighting like a pirate. Building on themes of safety with stage combat, students will learn single sword techniques utilizing cuts, thrusts, and parries.

Bio: Brent Shultz is a Performing and Visual Artist from Pittsburgh, PA. He holds a B.A. from CSU San Bernardino, an MFA from The New School for Drama, and works as a Teaching Artist for New York Theatre Workshop and Stage Combat TA at NYU and Brooklyn College.

34. Mastering Tech Challenge

Type: Stage Tech

Presenter: Amar Ahluwalia | **Connection:** Ridley High School

Synopsis: Practice all the events that are part of Tech Challenge. Ask questions and learn tips that will prepare you for the challenge. Learn what tech in theatre is all about.

Bio: Amar Ahluwalia has been Technical Director at Ridley High School for over 20 years. He believes stage crew is the most important part of a show and enjoys helping students develop fundamental skills.

35. More Than a Set: Technical Theatre Skills Beyond the Stage

Type: Technical theatre skills used in other careers

Presenter: Chad Thomas | **Connection:** Penn Manor High School & ATOMIC Design Inc

Synopsis: Beyond the Stage is an interactive workshop introducing high school students to theatre-adjacent careers. Explore jobs connected to technical theatre, entertainment, events, design, construction, production, technology, and business.

Bio: Chad Thomas is Operations Manager of Modular Systems at ATOMIC Design and Seasonal Technical Director at Penn Manor High School, with experience spanning scenic construction, audio, lighting, video, and rigging.

36. Make That Script Sing: Leveling Up Your Dialogue

Type: Writing

Presenter: Jonathan Dorf

Connection: YouthPLAYS

Synopsis: A dialogue-writing master class. Using directed exercises, learn how to write rhythm, create context, navigate exposition, use different levels of dialogue, avoid bumpy takeoffs and landings, and make your script sing.

Bio: Jonathan Dorf has authored over 60 plays with 3000+ productions worldwide. He co-founded publisher YouthPLAYS, chaired the Alliance of LA Playwrights, and taught at Hollins University, Harvard (BA), and UCLA (MFA).

37. Playwriting 101

Type: Writing

Presenter: Ed Monk

Connection: Playscripts Inc.

Synopsis: Supposing you want to write a play. How would you start? What mistakes should you avoid? A rapid and comprehensive overview of the basic elements of Playwriting.

Bio: Ed Monk taught theatre at Chantilly High School in Virginia for 26 years and is the author of 22 1/3 published plays with Playscripts Inc.