



Post-Secondary Classroom Workshops: Forum Theatre Training

Designed to teach post-secondary students the principles and application of Forum Theatre in community-engaged work

WHAT WE DO

Mixed Company Theatre has been producing **innovative, socially-relevant theatre as a tool for positive change** since 1983.

Today we use **Forum Theatre** - an UNESCO-recognized tool for community learning - to **engage, educate and empower** audiences in schools, communities, and workplaces. This **high impact** and **participatory** form of theatre is an incredibly **effective method of fostering positive social change**.

These workshops we are now offering for post-secondary classes are designed to teach your students **the value of using Forum Theatre** to address pressing community concerns today.



WHY MCT?

Mixed Company Theatre is one of North America's foremost practitioners of **Forum Theatre**. This style of theatre has its roots in **Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy** and **Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed** methodology. Boal developed Theatre of the Oppressed in Brazil in order to empower workers and community members to fight back against oppressions they were facing.

MCT's approach to Forum Theatre is unique in that **it blends Boal's methods with new developments** from MCT artists as well as other modern Forum Theatre and community-engaged practitioners.

THE FORUM THEATRE FORMAT

Forum Theatre productions typically take on the following format:

1. Community members watch a play depicting a **worst-case scenario of a social issue** (performed by actors or other community members).
2. **The facilitator** – known as the **"Joker"** – **prepares the audience to become "spect-actors"** and intervene in the action.
3. Audience members **suggest changes** and **replace characters** in the show to result in a **positive, alternative ending**.
4. The "Joker" **discusses the strategies** used with the community members so they **leave inspired with actionable solutions** to the challenges in the play

OUR CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

Overview

In our workshop sessions, students experience a blend of **critical discussion, participatory exercises**, and **video footage of MCT's work** to understand the Forum Theatre process. Each session is led by one of our experienced facilitators and teaches best practices in using Forum Theatre today as a community engagement tool.

Formats

We offer a "**Forum Theatre Fundamentals**" workshop that instructors can book which covers many of the important aspects of using theatre in community-engaged work. If you have additional learning objectives for the session, we can lengthen and enhance the experience. Full details can be found on the next few pages.

Delivery

These workshops are **available virtually** throughout the 2021-22 school year, with an in person option available in 2022 (subject to health and safety guidelines).



FORUM THEATRE FUNDAMENTALS

UP TO 2 HRS | MAX 30 STUDENTS | \$500 + HST*

*TRAVEL COSTS APPLY FOR IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

Learning Objectives

In the "Forum Theatre Fundamentals" workshop, students learn...

- How to **create a safe space** for exploring challenging topics with community members.
- How to use **democratic decision-making processes** when working with communities.
- How to **use the body to create images that communicate** ideas, experiences, and challenges involved in important social issues.
- How to **analyze the dynamics of oppression** in images and scenes.
- The **overall process of a Forum Theatre project** and why it is a valuable method to foster positive social change.



FORUM THEATRE ADVANCED

2 HOURS + | MAX 30 STUDENTS | CONTACT FOR PRICING

Overview

If you want to delve deeper into the Forum Theatre process than what is covered in "Forum Theatre Fundamentals," we can add additional exercises, discussions, and visual material to suit your goals.

Sample Topics

Some additional topics we can cover in an enhanced workshop include...

- Techniques and exercises for animating still images into Forum Theatre scenes
- Analyzing the different types of audience interventions
- Examining the multi-faceted role of the "Joker"
- And much more!

Write to us with your learning objectives and we can tailor the session to fulfill your needs.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

"This workshop has been a wonderful introduction to Forum Theatre for me, encouraging to explore the dynamics of power and oppression. Personally and professionally enlightening, Forum Theatre Creation workshop inspires to dig deeper and search for solutions in ways that were not possible before."

Ekaterina Reymarova, Expressive Arts Therapy Facilitator

About participating in MCT's virtual Forum Theatre Creation workshop designed for artists, educators, and community leaders

"...It was such a great intro to Forum Theatre with my students. It was lively, engaging, and high-stakes. It was well-performed and well-joked. It gave students a sense that this work was challenging and important. It catapulted us into the unit. I was thrilled, and I'd love to work with Mixed Company again..."

**Elliot Leffler, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at
University of Toronto - Scarborough**

About a presentation MCT facilitated with his students on the topic of sexual assault and harassment, designed to teach the principles of Forum Theatre

WE TOUR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS **YEAR-ROUND.**

Mixed Company will bring our interactive and educational workshops to **your campus virtually**. To see Forum Theatre in operation, you can also book a **Lightning Forum Theatre presentation** for your class.

With questions or to book any of our programs, write to:
communications@mixedcompanytheatre.com

Mixed Company Theatre

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educate • engage • empower