



Inclusive Theatre Companies

ArtStream's Inclusive Theatre Companies feature adult actors with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities — including autism — and other social and behavioral needs. The musicals are based on actors' ideas, improvisations, and characters and the final production is designed so that everyone can perform at their very best.

HOW DO WE GET TO OPENING NIGHT?

- > Every year starts with auditions so actors can demonstrate that they have the dedication and self-determination to create their own piece.
- > In weeks one and two, we choose a theme. Every actor gets to suggest a theme and every suggestion gets put on the board. Actors vote on the final theme.
- > In weeks three through six, actors suggest characters within the theme and experiment with different plot ideas.
- > In weeks seven through 11, the directing team writes the script outside of class, often using lines and ideas directly from improvis. Actors are given scenes to read and try out.
- > About half way through the process, we have a final script. We record a read-through of the script so actors, especially those with reading difficulties, can practice at home.
- > Once we have scripts, rehearsals are run like any other musical: we learn blocking, choreography, and music. Meanwhile, outside rehearsals, the production team paints the set and designs costumes. After a few weeks, actors must run through the whole musical without scripts. Actors may call "Line" if they forget.
- > Closer to the final show, actors can no longer call "Line." If an actor forgets a line, mentors, who are volunteer teens and adults also cast in the production, speak to them in character and out loud to get the scene back on track.
- > During tech week we integrate technical elements like lights, sound, costumes, props, and set. We get ready for the final performance.
- > Finally, at the performances, we get to show off all of our hard work!

www.art-stream.org

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