



**Theatre; Mime; Play Production; For Teachers: Theatre in the Classroom
Artist: Marion and Christopher Scadden of Marian L Scadden Enterprises**



Cwerks, Inc.

Grade Level:

K-Adult,

About the Artists:

Marian Scadden has a B.A. in Children's Theater. She writes, directs and acts in plays for children and adults, and has published numerous scripts and books. She has been a part of Young Audiences; Children's Educational Theatre in Salem, OR; and many City Recreation Departments. Christopher Scadden has an M.S.Ed in multi-lingual/multi-cultural. He was a bilingual (Spanish) elementary teacher for 15 years, and he teaches Spanish at a community college. Christopher has performed, directed and taught theater with many amateur and professional performing groups.

Objectives:

- enhance creativity and self-esteem
- improve literacy
- strengthen verbal and presentational skills
- encourage teamwork

through the process of learning basic performance techniques, participating in the development of a performance piece, or performing and sharing in the success of a performance.

Activities: Pre-residency communication with the school can be in the form of email, phone conversation or meeting. For the play production, several meetings will be necessary.

Theatre Residency: Through activities and rehearsal, students will learn basic stage and performance techniques. As time allows, students will participate in monologues, scenes, puppetry and improvisation. The course ends in a demonstration/performance.

Mime Residency: Students discover that mime is a performance art as they learn key techniques (object compensation ball, rope, wall, etc.). They learn silent communication as they create their own mime routines using their new skills. Students perform in mime makeup at the end of the residency.

Play Production: Students audition for, rehearse, and perform a 45-50 minute play. About 40-50 students are selected from the audition process. That group will rehearse daily, as they prepare to perform for family and friends. Approximately 36-40 hours are needed for rehearsing. Some costume pieces and props will be provided; some may need to be provided by the students or school. (More students can be involved by helping to make props, and doing other backstage work)

Theatre in the Classroom: Teachers learn how to involve students in theatre skill-building techniques that enhance, not disrupt, the classroom schedule. They will learn how to dovetail theatre into the units being taught. Teachers will practice some theatre skills. At the end of the residency, teachers will be given access to the e-book *The Other Art: Theater Skills to Help Every Child*, by Marian Scadden.

Workshop Size Limits:

- up to 30 students

Special Equipment:

- All residencies: a “daily journal” and writing utensil for each participant, large sheet of butcher paper and marker for each group
- Theatre Residency: copies of monologues and scenes chosen by the artist for each student
- Mime Residency: mime makeup supplies, approximately \$30 for every 100 students
- Play Production: scripts (up to \$2.50/performer); various materials to create props and set pieces (we try to use materials that would be on hand at a school or materials that are easy and free to come by, such as cardboard boxes)

Space Needed:

- Gymnasium, cafeteria or other large, open area

Connections to the Curriculum:

- Language arts, public speaking and drama