



Theatre Training Program

Our students in the Theatre Training Program are the future story tellers of our age. We are excited to train our future storytellers in their God-given giftings of acting and theatre. Acting is the technique of expressive communication.

While many stories are used in our classes, we also have the great privilege of having *The* story as a subject of our expression. From Jesus' parables to the old testament stories that create the whole framework of our faith, we have the opportunity to display the word of God through an expressive art.

Our students learn the art of acting and theatre while also solidifying their understanding and knowledge of biblical stories by examining the themes, messages, and the characters within them. We honor God and the gifts He has given through the discipline of study and the expression of our worship.

Teamwork and collaboration are key aspects of our training. Through encouragement, camaraderie, and cooperation, students work as a united group to achieve a greater purpose of storytelling and worship. Through acting games and exercises that focus on group work, we motivate an understanding of teamwork to achieve a greater goal.

Training Emphasis

Vocal Strengthening, Articulation, Diction, and Projection

- Actor training utilizes the voice to convey character and emotion. Having control over one's voice allows them to implement their craft into characterization and emotional expression.

Physical Characterization

- Creating a character through physicality is an important aspect of acting. Before a character ever has lines, they can convey a range of emotion and character traits through their physical movement, how they hold themselves, and their actions. We work on exercises that help students become aware of their own physical walk and movement and the differences as they transform into playable characters

Character and Scene Analysis

- Understanding the point or theme of a scene, a play, monologue, or any performative act is essential to discover the appropriate vocal and physical aspects to apply to a character. Students will learn how to identify moments, shifts, and pivotal moments and themes within a given project. Strengthening this skill advances students to a level of individual expression and ownership.

Improvisation

- Improvisation is really a technique in communication. Physicality, vocal work, character exploration and imagination all come into play as students express actions and words in the moment of an improvised scene or exercise. Each exercise has a clear goal or objective, and students explore different individual, imaginative ways to achieve their goal.
- These communicative, expressive skills are beneficial to other art forms as well as many aspects of life. Alan Alda is known for using acting techniques and improvisation to better prepare scientists and business majors to communicate and express their ideas and theories to boards of directors and fellow workers.

Teamwork

- Theatre is a team sport. Actors rely on and support their scene partners in order to tell a story. The more cohesive and responsive the actors are toward each other, the greater the overall impact and effect of a performance. Although each student is unique and brings an individualized imaginative aspect to a character, dramatic storytelling consists of each unique student working together to tell a story. Students learn how to work collaboratively, exercise “give and take” as they listen and respond to their teammates, and build a camaraderie and unity as they work toward a common goal. We support and encourage our teammates as we all embark on the expressive journey of theatre.

Performance Etiquette and Experience

- Technique of acting must be matched with the knowledge of how to prepare for a performance. Understanding backstage terminology, professional expectations, and how to center themselves into a focused state before stepping on the stage will give students the confidence before every performance inside Illuminate and in any other experience be it classroom presentations, or speeches.
- Students will have the opportunity to exercise these techniques and knowledge through community performances, Illuminate projects, and showcases.

Prayer and Devotion Time:

In addition to growing in their skills and broadening their performance base, we also take time each week for prayer, teachings, and study of the word of God. We have a desire for each student to grow in the knowledge of God and experience Him every time we come together. We believe these times will strengthen their foundation with the Lord and build a community and sense of belonging for our team.

Class Structure:

The goal for training program students is to develop and hone their technical skills as well as create and work on theatrical projects. Our class time will primarily be devoted to rehearsals for these theatrical projects. Students will also train their voice and body with warm-up exercises

designed for performance, as well as learn improvisation through theatre games and other exercises. Time will also be allotted for prayer, reflection, and devotion.

Performance & Project Opportunities:

Because Illuminate is part of a larger ministry at Glory of Zion, there are many professional resources for our students to partake in. These provide opportunities for our students to showcase their technical prowess and gain high quality experiences while expressing their creative gifts and technique to glorify God.

Depending on the collaborative projects developed by the training program instructors, students will have access to recording studios for audio and film production and a well equipped performance stage. In past years, Illuminate staff and students have been involved with ministry productions ranging from filmed dance, music, and art videos to live musical productions based on the Biblical stories of Ruth and Esther. Other opportunities include community events where students are able to experience and learn about the performative responsibilities to share their gifts and the light of the Lord with others. Each year students will perform in our end of year Music/Theatre recital and will perform various projects for community events and ministry events. We want our students to have the best opportunities available to them to share the glory of God and the gifts that they are defining through training and discipline.