

## LEARNING THROUGH THEATER

### Specifications

8th Grade and older only.

30 Students Maximum in one class with up to 3 classes possible each day of the residency.

**The students and their classroom teachers MUST attend The Acting Company's performance.**

Students and their classroom teachers are asked to read the text (as an assignment or in class) prior to the commencement of the Residency Program. Each student should have his/her own copy of the play.

The school must have a large, quiet space in which the students, teachers, and teaching artists can easily move, work in small groups, and function as a whole group. No special theatrical space or equipment is needed.

Please visit [www.theactingcompany.org](http://www.theactingcompany.org) to download a free Teacher Resource Guide to aid in preparing your students for *Macbeth* and Learning Through Theater.



Lois Walden leads a class.

**For more information or to arrange a LTT Program please contact Producing Associate Joseph Parks**

[jparks@theactingcompany.org](mailto:jparks@theactingcompany.org)

*The Acting Company has performed 138 productions for millions people across the country and around the world. Its Education Programs - including master classes, student matinees and artistic residencies - have reached tens of thousands of students. The Company was founded in 1972 by John Houseman and current Producer Margot Harley with the first graduating class of The Juilliard School's Drama Division. Winner of the Obie, Audelco and Los Angeles Critics Award for Excellence, The Acting Company received a 2003 TONY Honor for Excellence in Theater.*

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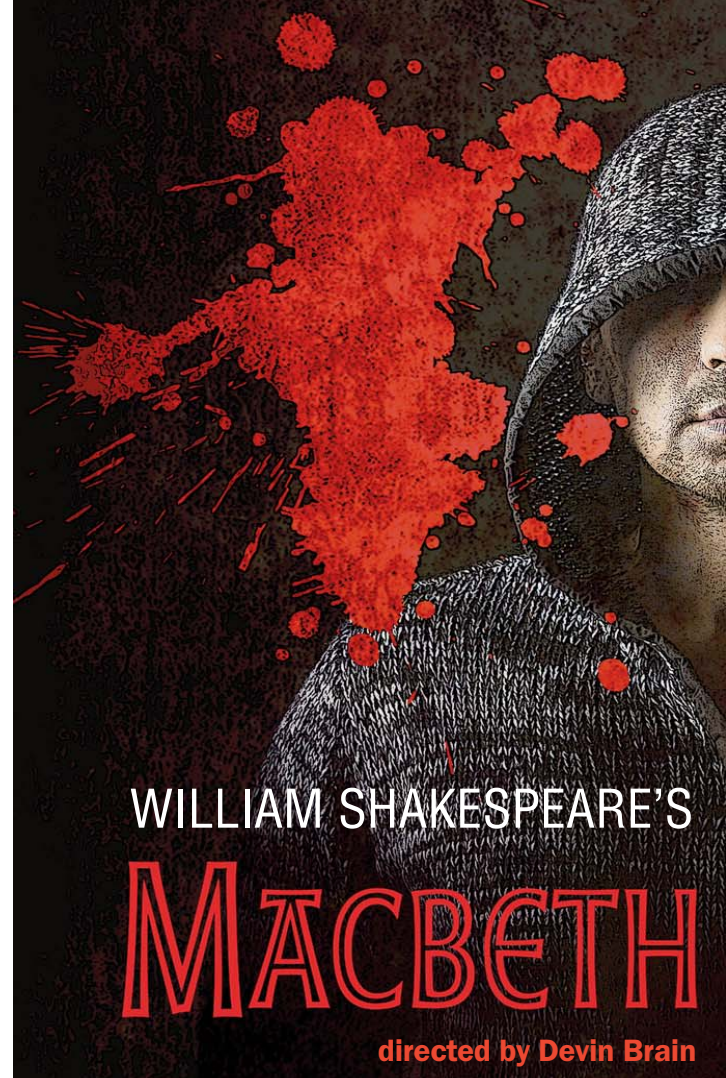
Facebook search: The Acting Company

Founded in 1972 by John Houseman and Margot Harley  
Ian Belknap Artistic Director

**the Acting**  
**ings**

2015-2016 SEASON

ALL AMERICA'S OUR STAGE



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S  
**MACBETH**

directed by Devin Brain

**LEARNING THROUGH THEATER**

**A Unique Weeklong Arts Residency Program  
Supplementing the Classroom Curriculum**

# LEARNING THROUGH THEATER

The Acting Company offers an intensive, five-school-day “Arts Residency” for High School and Junior High students, which accompanies performances in cities on the Company’s 2015-16 national tour and is intended for students who will be seeing shows in the company’s repertoire.

## Goals

- The program’s primary educational goals are:
- Involving 30 to 90 students and their classroom teachers in the program
- Enriching the school environment by stimulating student and teacher interest in theater and alternative teaching strategies
- Promoting the integration of theater arts with the school’s core curriculum to heighten students’ perception of and perspective on all aspects of school work
- Providing experiential education: a “learning by doing” approach
- Incorporating teaching to multiple intelligences
- Providing local classroom teachers with new skills and professional renewal
- Building lasting pathways between the school and its community through the shared experience of theater
- Enhancing students’ experience of the power, relevance, and immediacy of the classic theater as a human experience and field of study

## Pedagogy

Underpinning this program are several basic assumptions that The Acting Company sees as essential to arts education. Specifically that:

Knowledge of and experience in the arts are crucial to the life of a fully educated person and therefore deserve a central place in the school;

Learning about the arts occurs best through actual artistic experiences. Students must be given an opportunity to think, see, and act as artists in order for them to truly understand art disciplines and artistic choice-making;

“Learning by doing” education serves to enrich students’ lives, broaden their perspectives, sharpen critical thinking, and energize their overall learning process.



Teaching Artist Thom Rivera works with students.

## Structure

The Acting Company will use elements from the local schools’ core curriculum in combination with the Company’s 2015-16 touring production of **MACBETH** as the nucleus around which the theater arts residency program will be formed.

Classroom teachers typically do advance work on their own with their students before The Acting Company teaching artist arrives. Teacher involvement is essential to the success of this program.

## Five-Day Design of the Residency Program

**Day One:** Consists primarily of drama-based exercises designed to get the students comfortable with physical work, with text and movement, and with one another. Although many of the activities will be very specific to the productions, teachers will find that these techniques can be adapted to suit lessons in many different subjects.

**Day Two:** Involves an intensive study of the text and approaches to it. The use of context clues in dealing with unfamiliar language is coupled with use of reference books. Throughout, the students are involved, engaged and out of their seats. The skills actors use to delve into difficult texts are the same ones needed by students to improve their own reading comprehension.

**Day Three:** Furthers the relationship between the students and the text by encouraging them to act as artists themselves. They experience the opportunity to make informed artistic choices and create their own work based on the play they will see.

**Day Four:** Is an intensive day of reflection on theater arts and the collaborative nature of the creation of theater. The designs for the production and other artistic aspects are presented to the students. The students continue with their own work on the text that they started on Day Three.

**Day Five:** Is the culminating day of the Residency. Students will see the performance by The Acting Company and participate in a moderated discussion with the cast.

*After the Residency, follow-up lessons are provided as well as an assessment tool. It is recommended that students also keep a portfolio/journal of the experience.*



Teaching Artist Christian Conn discusses Shakespeare’s text with students.

For more information or to arrange a LTT Program please contact Producing Associate Joseph Parks