



APPLIED THEATRE CENTER

Addressing human needs

Playback Café • Theatre in Education • Drama Therapy • Human Resources Training • Specialized Workshops

What we do

Applied Theatre is a broad field, encompassing many diverse practices. We seek out proven methods through training, research and collaboration and we offer programs that apply these methods for a wide variety of groups under diverse circumstances.

Action methods, such as improvisational theatre and theatre games, develop social skills.

Role playing and role training give insight, means of emotional expression and life skills.

Forum theatre energizes citizens to advocate for change in their lives and in their communities.

Training in all forms of applied theatre is offered every year.

Our work is both **process-based** (interactive rehearsals) and **product-based** (performances through Playback Theatre and social stories).

We integrate an awareness of spirituality as an essential component of healthy living.



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How we do it

The Applied Theatre Center (ATC) employs theatrical techniques to help people understand and rehearse solutions to their problems and energize their strengths. Our artists use these techniques to develop and lead programs that address human needs in three primary ways:

1. By addressing personal, psychological or spiritual needs through drama therapy.

We invite people to learn more about themselves and their history, and to try new ways of living as healthy human beings. Drama therapy is one broad category of methods often used in dealing with these kinds of needs. Other methods include role playing, sociodrama and a variety of games developed by Augusto Boal.

2. By addressing social or political concerns shared by a group of people through Theatre of the Oppressed.

Sometimes the challenges an individual is facing come from outside themselves, from their peers

or society. Applied Theatre allows a group to “rehearse for reality” together. Forum theatre, for example, is one highly effective interactive method for expressing and then solving a social problem.

3. By addressing student-learner outcomes through Theatre in Education. TIE is a proven method

which utilizes theatrical processes in a learner-

centered pedagogy. Participants receive educational or psycho-educational benefits by engaging in embodied activities. Learning is cognitive, affective and kinesthetic. In 2015, ATC created a healthy living TIE program which



traveled to community centers across the Upstate of South Carolina.

Where you'll find us in action

- The Whitehorse Academy** – A weekly drama therapy program at this residential drug treatment center for adolescent boys.
- The Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs Board (Thrive Upstate)** – Drama therapy for individuals and groups at three day services centers.
- Connie Maxwell Children's Home** – Four to six sociodrama workshops per year.
- Christy Ruppert Delsini Autism Program** – Monthly drama therapy games for adults with autism.
- Triune Mercy Center** – Playback Café performances for the homeless at this inner city church.
- Greenville County Juvenile Detention Center** – Weekly improv-based drama therapy programs offered for juvenile prisoners.
- Miracle Hill Ministries** – A sociodrama program created for children in foster care shelters.
- Retirement centers** – Performances and a reminiscence theatre program (Living Memories) for retirement homes.



throughout the year

Spectrum – A social skills drama group reinvented each year for young adults with autism. Also uses videography for therapeutic purposes.

Playback Café – A monthly interactive playback theatre ensemble that performs for and with Greenville's homeless population.

Recover Our Youth – A weekly drama therapy program for young men in DSS/DJJ custody.

Bon Secours Health System – A drama therapy-focused group for teens in a grief support program.

Evans Learning Center Migrant Education Program – Theatre in Education for young children of migrant farm workers.

South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum – Role-play used to teach self-advocacy skills.

YouthBase – Creative story-based workshops with K5-second-grade children.

Senior Action – 'Act Your Age,' an acting class that promotes critical thinking, memory retention, and fun by exercising seniors' minds and bodies.

Goodwill GoodGuides mentoring program – Role-playing-based training for underserved youth who are at risk of making harmful choices such as dropping out of school or joining a gang.

We stay current on a wide variety of applied theatre forms and offer training to theatre artists, social workers, community leaders, educators and others throughout the year. We are in constant communication with social services organizations in the Upstate area of SC, creatively collaborating on programs that support the missions of these groups and the people they serve.

Who we are: Say hello to the

Dale Savidge, Ph.D.

ATC Executive Director

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A Greenville, SC-based theatre director, educator and entrepreneur, Dale holds a Ph.D. in English and Theatre from the University of South Carolina. He is coauthor of the book *Performing the Sacred* and teaches applied theatre in university settings. In 2017 he will complete his training as a Registered Drama Therapist under the guidelines of the North American Drama Therapy Association. Dale has created productions, programs and companies; he travels widely and frequently, leading and attending conferences and workshops around the world. In recent years he taught applied theatre in Singapore, NYC and in Puerto Rico.



Carli Gaughf, M.A.

ATC Community Partnerships

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Carli is a director, facilitator, educator, and performer. In New York City, she worked for nearly a decade producing and directing performances of new works and teaching theatre workshops for young artists. Using theatre to explore stories with marginalized communities, she has created performances in prisons, senior centers, and community centers. Carli trained in community-based performance with the renowned Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles and Urban Bush Women in Brooklyn, NY. She holds an M.A. in Applied Theatre from the City University of New York and a B.A. in Theatre from Florida State University.



ATC core team

Britney Preston *ATC Company Member*

Britney is an actress and educator with a B.A. in Theatre from North Greenville University. She has been active in the Upstate theatre community for many years and developed a love for educating youth while teaching middle and high school theatre at Shannon Forest Christian School. She has served as a performer and facilitator with ATC since 2013. Britney leads weekly groups at the Phoenix Center, Recover Our Youth, and Thrive Upstate. Her workshops emphasize personal growth through improvisation and drama therapy techniques. She is also a mentor with Spectrum, the social skills theatre program for autistic young adults, and a performer/director with the Playback Café.



Nictavius Evans *ATC Company Member*

Nick is a co-facilitator of adolescent groups and serves as a mentor for the Spectrum theatre group. Also a regular performer with Playback Café, his work for ATC has included workshops at Connie Maxwell Children's Home, lead roles in Forum Theatre productions for the homeless, and significant contributions to the large group sociodrama presentations given during the Rotary Club of Greenville's Peace and Conflict Resolution Seminar. Nick is a senior theatre major at North Greenville University where he studies applied theatre. During summer months, he shares his time and talent with educational programs for children of migrant farm workers at Evans' Learning Center.





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