



## Applied Theatre in Action!

A conference for actors and activists



Amy Scheer leading "Rehearsal for Reality: Augusto Boal and Social Justice" at the 2011 Applied Theatre Center conference. (Photo by Carmen Miller)

“

.. a wonderful offering ... a much needed opportunity for professional development, networking, and a re-connection with inspiration ... there is so much more that theatre can and must do to serve its community ...

”

**Anne Tromsness**  
Education Director,  
The Warehouse Theatre

### About the Applied Theatre Center

Theatre has an important role to play in improving the lives, work and behavior of people throughout the world. Though human needs vary widely, theatre can affect them for good in myriad ways that address their unique concerns. It is a uniquely human...and humane...art form that is a powerful tool for communities to collectively communicate their concerns and to advocate for change.

Applied theatre incorporates the use of theatre techniques in education, healthcare, community development, social service agencies, and business and industry. Though the practice of applied theatre is centuries old, it has only recently been recognized by mainstream theatre artists as an application of theatre which merits scholarly and artistic attention. The next step for this emerging discipline is to set artistic and therapeutic standards and create a system through which practitioners can receive necessary credentials so that the theatre artists may truly "do good" and not harm.

### Mission Statement

The Applied Theatre Center brings theatre artists and community-based collaborators together in order to place the art of theatre in service to individuals and communities.



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## Conference Tracks and Leaders

June 28 – 30, 2012  
Kroc Center • Greenville, SC

- **Theatre and the Autism Spectrum led by Andrew Nelson**, M.Ed., founder of the Autism Theatre Network (autismtheatre.org).



Theatre has been proven to be an excellent tool for improving communication skills, encouraging social adaptability, and developing motor skills, among other needs autistics have. While there are several programs dedicated to children with autism, theatre can also help develop the social skills and confidence of teenagers and adults with autism.

- **Drama Therapy, led by Heidi Landis**, Registered Drama Therapist, Licensed Creative Arts Therapist and Certified Psychodramatist.



Through role-playing and theatre-based exercises and experiences, groups around the U.S. are using theatre as a form of rehabilitation with great success. People working with the homeless, recovering addicts, at risk youth, the incarcerated and other underserved groups will benefit from this training. This track will offer credit through the National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) toward the Registered Drama Therapist license.

- **Playback Theatre (Personal and Community Development), led by Jo Salas**, co-creator of the genre of Playback Theatre and Founder and Artistic Director of the Hudson River Playback Theatre.



Playback Theatre is a 40 year old interactive theatre technique, now used in 50 countries around the world. Through a trained team of actors and musicians it em-

powers people to share their stories, and to experience the transforming power of stories shared and expressed. Playback Theatre has proven effective in various applications including education, therapy, business, and for social change.

- **Cross Cultural Missions, led by Lin Sexton**, creative arts director at Cross Point Community Church in Modesto, CA.

People of faith are actively engaged in improving the lives of people around the world, especially in developing countries. Only recently has theatre emerged as a powerful tool for addressing the personal, spiritual and social needs of people in other cultures. Because it may be non-verbal, theatre is an effective method of communication where language presents a barrier.

- **Corporate Theatre, led by Wayne Harrel**, a Portland, OR-based actor, writer and producer who has worked around the US in corporate theatre.



Theatre as a tool for improving the lives and work of people in the business world is being used by a number of groups in the US. At present there is no theatre-based corporate programming in the Upstate. This training is applicable to team building, conflict resolution, vision casting, and many other business needs.

- **Forum Theatre: Rehearsal for Reality (Social Justice), led by Lisa Jo Epstein**, PhD, co-founder and Artistic Director of Gas & Electric Arts Theatre in Philadelphia.



Theatre is a powerful tool for communities to come together and collaboratively explore and express their history, current conditions and dreams for the future. Developed by South American theatre artist, Augusto Boal, 'Forum Theatre' serves to give oppressed people a voice for social justice. This training can be used to explore issues of power and to foster reconciliation among groups in conflict.

For complete conference schedule and more information, go to [www.appliedtheatrecenter.org](http://www.appliedtheatrecenter.org).