



3 creative expression groups for people with disabilities

The Applied Theatre Center has been creating expressive arts and theatre groups for people with disabilities for over 15 years and registration is now open for the exciting programs we're offering this fall!

Spectrum Theatre is a theatre program for adults (17 and up) with autism; it has been meeting for 11 years. The focus of the fall 2022 group is "Experiencing felt safety in space and in relationships." Group sessions are active, participatory and most of all *fun and safe!*

- **Spectrum meets** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month for 60 minutes September through May at the Greenville Kroc Center.
- **Spectrum performs** once in December and once in May for supporters and the general public
- **Spectrum registration fee:** \$20 per group, or \$160 for the entire 8-week fall program

Act it Out! Is an arts group for teens ages 13-17 with developmental, learning or any other disability. The group focuses on creative expression through drama, art music and movement.

- **Act it Out!** meets 5:20 - 6:20 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month for 60 minutes September through May at the Greenville Kroc Center.

- **Act it Out!** may offer a performance and/or art exhibit during the 2022/2023 season
- **Act it Out! charges no registration fee.** It is funded by a generous grant from the Barbara Stone Foundation

Facetime is a theatre/art therapy group for teens ages 13-17 who identify as people with autism and who want to gain comfort and confidence in social settings. This group is best suited to those who have the ability to verbalize and interact with peers, but who find those interactions difficult or anxiety-producing.

- **Facetime meets** 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays for 6 weeks beginning September 7 at Spectrum Villages, 50 Directors Drive, Greenville 29615 (behind the Orchard Park Post Office near Haywood Mall).
- **Facetime leaders** are available to interact with parents or therapists to maximize the value of this experience for the participants.
- **Facetime registration fee:** \$35 per session, or \$210 for the entire 6-week program.

How to register and find out more

You can register for any of these groups at appliedtheatrecenter.org or our [Facebook page](#).

If you have questions about whether a group might be a good fit for you or for someone you care for, please reach out to us at rachel@appliedtheatrecenter.org and we'll be in touch right away!

Group leaders

Dale Savidge, ATC Executive Director, received his PhD in theatre and English from the University of South Carolina. He taught theatre at the university level for 30 years and



has founded both non-profit and for-profit companies. A licensed foster parent with the SC Department of Social Services and a Registered Drama Therapist (RDT), Dale offers drama therapy to foster care group homes, substance use treatment centers, and YMCA disability groups. He also directs the Playback Café, an improvisational theatre group which has performed for and with the homeless community, and has created numerous interactive plays addressing a variety of social issues.

As a facilitator, Dale understands how to moderate group activities to maximize impact without exposing participants to undue stress. His style is supportive and empathic.



Rachel Rutkowski, ATC Programming Director, received her BA in theatre and biology (dual-major) from Wofford College and her MA in arts and medicine from the University of Florida. She's led creative arts groups at three foster care facilities and directed the Spectrum Theatre group's performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Rachel works in hospital settings, bringing the calming influence of the arts to patients in stressful situations.

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The Applied Theatre Center is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization founded in Greenville, SC in 2011.