

## THEATRE ARTS

### Devised Theatre

*Devised theater is a form of theatre where the script originates not from a writer or writers, but from collaborative, usually improvisatory, work by a group of people (usually, but not necessarily, the performers).*

**1-week session, June 12-16**

**1-4 p.m.**

Grade level: 9-12

Class size: 20 students, minimum 12

Fee: \$175

Join Kelsey Cramer in a workshop creating original work with a collaborative group process. This workshop will teach a flexible process for creating new work that challenges the individual artists to connect with the questions they have about the world and utilize those questions to create imaginative, playful and transformative theatre. Through the workshop, participants will learn several techniques and skills for unearthing their own intuition; they will practice and grow their listening, curiosity, imagination, leadership, and creativity while exploring various techniques and methodologies for creating new performance. They will explore the purpose of performance in their own lives and the lives of their community and search for ways to make that purpose more vital, relevant and crucial to the world.

**Instructor: Tory Peterson, Perpich theater faculty, and Kelsey Cramer, actor, director and teaching artist**

Kelsey Cramer is a Minneapolis-based actor, writer, director and teaching artist, specializing in comedy, physical theater, feminist theater and new work. Recent acting credits include “44 Plays for 44 Presidents” with Theatre Pro Rata, “The Taming” with Theatre Unbound, “The Illusion” at Park Square Theatre, the mini-national tour of “Love, Loss, and What I Wore” with Troupe America and the fourth-annual sketch comedy show, “Women’s History Month: the historical comedybration (with fabulous prizes)” at Bryant-Lake Bowl. She has also performed with The Buoyant Group, Theatre in the Round, Savage Umbrella, Mixed Blood and the Jungle Theater, as well as in several commercials and short films. Kelsey holds a bachelor’s degree in theatre from St. Olaf College and is a proud alumna of the Perpich Arts High School.

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Tory Peterson has been an instructor at the Perpich Arts High School since 1993. He was a curriculum designer for Perpich’s 2000-2001 Frameworks for Arts Curriculum Strategies and EdStar Curriculum Repository. Peterson has led teaching workshops and presented at state and national conferences on classroom collaboration and interdisciplinary curriculum development. He received a B.A. in theater from Moorhead State University and M.A. in theater from Arizona State University. Peterson was recipient of the 2001 Animating Democracy Grant, 2003 SURDNA Foundation Grant and 2007 Gilder Lehrman Teachers Institute.

## **Introduction to Playwriting**

**2-week session, June 12-16, June 19-23**

**1-4 p.m.**

Grade level: 9-12

Class size: 15 students, minimum 12

Fee: \$175

There are few feelings more exciting than sitting in the back of a dark theatre watching live actors perform your words, while an audience laughs and cries or even shifts uncomfortably in their seats — and eventually bursts into applause. It's like watching a chemical reaction that produces an incredible energy. An energy that is unique to the live stage. An energy that all begins with the playwright.

Whether you've never written anything before or you're experienced in another kind of writing or you're a playwright looking to sharpen your skills, playwright John Heimbuch offers clear, step-by-step guidance in the basics: character, conflict and structure, setting, dialogue and formatting. But that's not all. Need to make that good script great? We'll study more than a dozen elements you can use in the rewriting process to move your script up a level and then discuss what to do next in the development and submission process. And since many of the principles of playwriting apply to all forms of dramatic writing, taking "Introduction to Playwriting" is a great idea for screenwriters too. Not only will you come back to your screenwriting with fresh insight, but you might find that you like writing plays too.

The first week is all about writing your play, and during the second week, you get the play on its feet a bit.

**Instructor: John Heimbuch, playwright and director, and Tory Peterson, Perpich theater faculty**

John Heimbuch is an award-winning playwright and director, and the co-artistic director of Minneapolis' Walking Shadow Theatre Company. His plays have been published by Samuel French and staged across the world. In addition to his work with Walking Shadow, John is a filmmaker, game developer and sings with the rock band Bad September. He is an alumnus of Minnesota State University Mankato, the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and Perpich Center for Arts Education. He can be found online at [johnheimbuch.com](http://johnheimbuch.com) and [walkingshadowcompany.org](http://walkingshadowcompany.org).

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