

PRESS RELEASE

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MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE'S ENSEMBLE SCHOOL OFFERS ACTOR TRAINING FOR ALL AGES

FREDERICK, MD (Jan. 13, 2014) - **Maryland Ensemble Theatre** (MET) is proud to announce its schedule of classes for **The Ensemble School's** upcoming semester. Taught by working actors and directors, The Ensemble School is a training ground for professional and aspiring actors of all skill levels with classes for students from age seven to adult. All classes are 12-week sessions that begin on or after February 11, meet once a week and are limited to 12 students. All classes are held at Maryland Ensemble Theatre located in the historic **FSK Hotel** at 31 W Patrick Street in downtown Frederick.

"I'm so proud of our students -- many are finding regional film work and have landed roles with local theatre productions. And, of course, we are always thrilled to be able to work with our younger students side-by-side in "A Christmas Carol" each year. We strive to educate the next generation of actors for our stage. In fact, at the moment, many of our company members are former Ensemble School students." said **Gené Fouché**, the Director of The Ensemble School. In fact Fouché's own daughter, Ensemble School student **Lena Janes**, recently won the annual talent competition sponsored by the **Optimist Club of Frederick**, adding to the list of previous Ensemble School winners in this competition.

The Youth Classes this semester include **Acting Out** taught by **Melissa Baughman**. Open to ages 7-9 the class features games and exercises that build self confidence and encourage the creative mind. This class has a rotating curriculum, so returning students will continue to be challenged. Melissa Baughman, a director with **Landless Theatre Company**, will also teach the **Performance Skills** class for ages 10-12. Students in this class will use improv, scene work, vocal techniques and explore ensemble-based movement to create realistic acting within an ensemble structure.

Teen Improv for ages 13 -17 will be taught by **Caitlyn Joy**, a veteran of The Ensemble School and a graduate of the Theatre program at **Towson**. The class offers an hour of short and long form improv games and scenes that encourage on-the-spot thinking, creativity and fun! Joy will also teach **Teen Acting** for ages 13 -17. Students will leave this class with skills to tackle any role they may encounter. The course will explore core concepts in understanding the actor's process. Scene study will incorporate script analysis and research, along with characterization, to assist students in preparing for any role. "Caitlyn Joy began classes with us when she was 10, premiered professionally on our stage at the age of 11 and is now back acting and teaching with us after pursuing her theatre degree.", offered Gené Fouché.

The Ensemble School will be offering two classes for adults. **Adult Improv** will be taught by current member of **The Comedy Pigs** and MET Ensemble member, **Laura Stark**, who has performed with improv troupes in DC and NYC. Students in the class will explore both short form and long form improv. **Adult Acting** will be taught by MET's **Associate Artistic Director Julie Herber**. Students will focus on techniques for auditioning for stage and film. The first few weeks of class will be devoted to monologues, cold readings and other auditioning techniques. The second part of the semester will move on to scene study, giving students a more in-depth look at text analysis and character development.

The MET will be holding an **Open House on January 29 from 4:30 - 6:00pm**. The Open House will offer prospective students the chance to meet the instructors and see the theatre and classrooms.

Since 1995 The Ensemble School has been offering classes to students who have gone on to work on

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stage, tv and film in NYC, Chicago and Hollywood. In addition to The Ensemble School, MET offers thought-provoking theatre, fun family entertainment, artist residency programs for public schools and the side-splitting comedy.

For more information on The Ensemble School including class schedules and tuition rates please visit marylandensemble.org or call 301-694-4744.

THE ENSEMBLE THEATRE INFORMATION

Winter/Spring 2014 Classes * New classes begin week of February 11 and run for 12 weeks.

ADULT CLASSES

Adult Acting * Auditioning Workshop & Scene Study * Tuesdays * 6:00-7:30pm * \$220

This class will focus on techniques for auditioning for stage and film. The first few weeks of class will be devoted to monologues, cold readings and other auditioning techniques. The second part of the semester will move on to scene study, giving students a more in-depth look at text analysis and character development.

Adult Improv * Tuesdays * 7:30-9pm * \$220

This class will review improv basics and lay a foundation for future growth and study. Students will explore both short form and long form improv. This class has a revolving curriculum, so returning students will continue to be challenged. If you are enrolling for both adult classes, please choose the package when checking out for a significant savings.

YOUTH CLASSES

Acting Out! (Ages 7-9) * Mondays * 4:30-5:30pm * \$180

Students will stimulate their imaginations with theatre games and exercises that build self confidence and encourage the creative mind. Children's literature will serve as a foundation for introducing character and analysis. This class has a rotating curriculum, so returning students will continue to be challenged.

Performance Skills (Ages 10-12) * Mondays * 5:45-6:45 pm * \$180

Students will use improv, scene work, vocal techniques and explore ensemble-based movement to create realistic acting within an ensemble structure. This class has a rotating curriculum, so returning students will continue to be challenged.

Teen Improv (Ages 13-17) * Wednesdays * 4:30-5:30pm * \$180

An hour of short and long form improv games and scenes that encourage on-the-spot thinking, creativity and fun! This semester we will also be delving into various other forms of improvisational-based creation. If you are enrolling for both teen classes, please choose the package when checking out for a significant savings.

Teen Acting (Ages 13-17) * Wednesdays * 5:30-7pm * \$220

Students will leave this class with skills to tackle any role they may encounter. The course will explore core concepts in understanding the actor's process. Scene study will incorporate script analysis and research, along with characterization, to assist students in preparing for any role.

If you are enrolling for both teen classes, please choose the package when checking out for a significant savings.

Box Office: 301-694-4744 or marylandensemble.org or at the MET 31 W Patrick Street Frederick MD 21701

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