

Alliance Theatre

EDUCATOR
CONFERENCE


expanding hearts and minds

PROGRAM

#AllianceEdConf20
@AllianceTheatre

JUNE 2–25, 2020
A VIRTUAL EVENT

*Note: this program is accurate as of
June 18, 2020 (details are subject to change).*

The Educator Conference is supported by: 

DATE // CONFERENCE TRACK**SESSION 1**
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT**SESSION 2**
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

TUESDAY
JUNE 2
All Conference Participants

Welcome from **Chris Moses**, Dan Reardon Director of Education & Associate Artistic Director, and **Alliance@work: *Owning the Actor's Tool Kit*** with **J. Noble**

Keynote with **Pearl Cleage**, Distinguished Artist in Residence, and **Andrea Pinkney**, Author

THURSDAY
JUNE 4
Dramatic Writing (High School)

Straight from the Source: Using Literature and Pop Culture as Genesis for New Work with **Kimberly Belflower**

The Radical Act of Listening: Making Documentary and Investigative Theater with **KJ Sanchez**

TUESDAY
JUNE 9
Arts Integration (Elementary School)

Theater Games for any Content Area with **Sam Provenzano**

Explore Process Drama in Your Classroom with **Courtney Moors**

THURSDAY
JUNE 11
Dance/Movement

Advanced Musical Theater Choreography with **Ricardo Aponte**

Unlocking Creativity through Movement with **Sarah Hillmer**

TUESDAY
JUNE 16
Arts Integration (Early Childhood) // Session 1
STEAM (Early Childhood) // Session 2

Workshops Supported by KPMG

Living Literacy Out Loud: Acting, Speaking, and Comprehending with **Khaleshia Thorpe-Price** and **Nicole Escudero**

Three Lessons, One STEAM Theme: Scaffolding the Story through Drama Strategies with **Kim Bowers-Rheay Baran**

THURSDAY
JUNE 18
Theater

Costume Design on a Budget with **April Andrew**

White Rose: Text-to-Performance Adaptation for Civic Dialogue with **Rita Kompelmakher** and **Sam Provenzano**

TUESDAY
JUNE 23
STEAM (Middle and High School) // Session 1
Arts Integration (Middle and High School) // Session 2

Workshops Supported by KPMG

Slam Poetry: Say It Like You STEAM It! with **Daryl Funn**

Theater Criticism: You're Already an Expert! with **Patrick Myers**

THURSDAY
JUNE 25
All Conference Participants // Session 1
STEAM (Elementary School) // Session 2
All Conference Participants // Session 3

Workshops Supported by KPMG

SESSION 1
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT
Presentation of Research: Woodruff Arts Center Multi Visit Program with **Jay P. Greene** and **Heidi Holmes**

SESSION 2
2:00–3:30 PM EDT
Two Sides of the Coin: Integrating Math and Drama with **Barry Stewart Mann**

SESSION 3
4:30–6:00 PM EDT
Anti-Bias in the Arts and Education with **Maya Lawrence**

KEYNOTE

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 // 2:00 –3:30 PM EDT



Pearl Cleage Distinguished Artist in Residence

Pearl Cleage is an Atlanta based writer, currently Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Tony Award®-winning Alliance Theatre. Her new play *Angry, Raucous, and Shamelessly Gorgeous*, had its world premiere as a part of the theatre’s 50th anniversary season. Her other plays premiered at the Alliance include *Pointing at the Moon*, *What I Learned in Paris*, and *Flyin’ West*, and *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years* (commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival), and *Tell Me My Dream*. Her book for children, co-authored with her husband, writer Zaron W. Burnett with illustrations by Radcliffe Bailey, was a part of the 2019 Mayor’s Reading Club. Cleage is currently at work on *Sit-In*, a play for young audiences about the sit-in movement in conjunction with a national exhibition sponsored by Scholastic Books, starting at the High Museum this summer. Some of her other plays include *Late Bus to Mecca*, *Bourbon at the Border* and *A Song for Coretta*.



Andrea Pinkney Author

Andrea Davis Pinkney is a *The New York Times* best-selling and award-winning author of numerous books for children and young adults. Her work has received multiple Coretta Scott King Book Award citations, and she is a four-time nominee for the NAACP Image Award. Ms. Pinkney is the recipient of both the Regina Medal and the Arbutnot Honor Award for her distinguished contribution to the field of children’s literature. Additionally, she is Vice President, Executive Editor at Scholastic. Ms. Pinkney has been named among the “25 Most Influential People in our Children’s Lives” by *Children’s Health* magazine and is included in the “50 Over 50 Extraordinary Women Who Light up the Arts Scene” noted by *Good Housekeeping* and *Woman’s Day* magazines.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

IN ORDER OF DELIVERY

Welcome from **Chris Moses**, Dan Reardon Director of Education & Associate Artistic Director, and ***Alliance@work: Owing the Actor's Tool Kit*** with **J. Noble**

TUESDAY, JUNE 2
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

Alliance@work partners with corporations to use theater as a tool for learning and transformation. Through a collective and creative process (the rehearsal process), participants become better storytellers, leaders, and change agents. In this session, the entire Educator Conference community is invited to dig into the Alliance@work framework as a tool to support mindful engagement in a virtual learning space. Participants will be introduced to the Actor's Tool Kit and discuss how to use the Tool Kit to get comfortable with discomfort, stay in the moment, and genuinely connect with other people. Additionally, the workshop will guide participants to listen with more focus and understanding, engage with greater self-awareness, and interact more mindfully and authentically with others.

Straight from the Source: Using Literature and Pop Culture as Genesis for New Work with **Kimberly Belflower**

THURSDAY, JUNE 4
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

What are you obsessed with? Discover the generative tools we can find from digging into our formative artistic influences.

Many fledgling writers feel overwhelmed by the blank page and the sheer density of stories that already exist. But when we start with stories we love, we can harness their energy, and free ourselves to make new connections with familiar ingredients.

In the spirit of the Alliance Theatre's Classics Remix program, this session will give participants tools to put existing material in conversation with contemporary issues and personal histories to create dramatic work. Following an introduction to the way she uses this process, playwright Kimberly Belflower will illustrate examples through her play, *John Proctor is the Villain*, and lead participants in a series of writing exercises to begin their own projects. All generative prompts are reusable and adaptable to all writing levels, including beginners and pre-beginners.

The Radical Act of Listening: Making Documentary and Investigative Theater with **KJ Sanchez**

THURSDAY, JUNE 4
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

Led by American Records' founder KJ Sanchez, this workshop will focus on the making of investigative and documentary theater. The session will cover the history of Sanchez's work and company, an overview of the building blocks of making investigative and documentary theater, and a deep dive into the interview techniques used by Sanchez and her team to collect stories and experiences that become the source material for plays.

Theater Games for any Content Area
with **Sam Provenzano**

TUESDAY, JUNE 9
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

“Ship to Shore” to learn about explorers? “Hot Seat” to uncover character traits and feelings? “Facebook Photo Album” to study habitats? Theater games are great warm-ups, brain breaks, and energizers, but they are also engaging arts integration strategies. Bring these games into your classroom to address any content area. Get ready to laugh, connect, and play!

Explore Process Drama in Your Classroom with **Courtney Moors**

TUESDAY, JUNE 9
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

In this workshop, teachers will discover how utilizing the Process Drama methodology in their classrooms can deepen a student’s understanding and connection to a specific content area. Process Drama is an immersive teaching methodology in which the teacher and students utilize theater (mainly improvisation) to create an imaginary world within the classroom. In this world, all participants sustain a specific role while working as an ensemble to explore an event, setting, situation, or theme, such as Ellis Island at the turn of the 20th century. Teachers and students work within that setting to explore the problems the characters in that world faced, not for a separate audience but for the benefit of the participants themselves. This workshop will present a variety of theater-inspired, curriculum-driven exercises to prepare teachers to bring students closer to history by allowing them the opportunity to personally experience and connect to the past.

Advanced Musical Theater Choreography with **Ricardo Aponte**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

This movement session will feature a dance combination inspired by a musical in the Alliance Theatre’s upcoming 2020-21 season. We will share various versions of the choreography to best accommodate your dance skills. All levels welcome! Please wear comfortable clothing and dance shoes or sneakers.

Unlocking Creativity through Movement with **Sarah Hillmer**

THURSDAY, JUNE 11
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

Led by Sarah Hillmer of ImmerseATL, this movement and creation workshop is designed to awaken the senses and provide new perspectives on the body’s approach to physicality and the mind’s ability to let go - inside any circumstance. The class will begin with 30 minutes of guided, imagery-based movement exploration and improvisation that is adaptable to any sized space available to you. Sensations and textures will be introduced to you through colorful imagery, opening the physical senses to prepare for creation. We will continue with 45 minutes of directed tasks to be accessed both individually and collectively to further unlock your individual creativity through creation. Conversation and reflection will be interspersed throughout and will conclude the 90-minute class.

Living Literacy Out Loud: Acting, Speaking, Comprehending with **Khaleshia Thorpe-Price and Nicole Escudero**

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

Discover creative new ways to build language and literacy with your students! Participants will explore how creative movement, physical storytelling, and character exploration strategies can be used to help strengthen letter recognition, vocabulary acquisition, and reading comprehension in the classroom. By introducing activities that explore the theatrical concepts of body, voice, character, and setting, this physical workshop prepares participants to take words off the page and onto their classroom “stage.” Participants will be equipped with theatrical kinesthetic approaches to strategies to enhance language learning in the classroom.

Three Lessons, One STEAM Theme: Scaffolding the Story through Drama Strategies with **Kim Bowers-Rheay Baran**

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

As an educator, you have your curriculum units with accompanying books and themes, but where is the opportunity for creativity? In this interactive workshop, Master Wolf Trap teaching artist Kim Bowers-Rheay Baran guides the participants through three scaffolded lessons based on one curriculum topic.

This three-lesson arc, featuring arts-integration strategies, can be applied to numerous curriculum topics, providing a creative ‘way in’ to a variety of subjects. The three sample lessons begin with the classic Georgia Wolf Trap Story Basket, then moves into retelling the story through dramatizing, and finally creating a new original class story based on the unit themes. Each lesson will scaffold drama skills, story elements, and the selected unit standards and themes. The new class story will utilize the story basket strategy and provides immediate opportunity to assess knowledge within the creative process. This immersive workshop provides opportunity for discovery, creativity, reflection, and collaboration with fellow participants and ideas to take back to the classroom.

Costume Design on a Budget with **April Andrew**

THURSDAY, JUNE 18
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

Join April Andrew, Costume Designer and the Assistant Costume Shop Manager at the Alliance Theatre, for an introduction to basic costume design principles and practical applications (on a budget) for classroom, school, and community-based productions. Learn to stretch your budget by looking at ordinary objects and seeing their creative potential, while effectively communicating with your audience. No previous costuming experience or sewing skills required!

White Rose: Text-to-Performance Adaptation for Civic Dialogue with **Rita Kompelmakher and Sam Provenzano**

THURSDAY, JUNE 18
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

In this session, participants will learn about Kip Wilson’s book *White Rose* and experience adaptation strategies to transform literary text into performance in their classrooms. Participants will also be introduced to methods for engaging civic and community partners in creative collaboration to explore human rights and the global history of youth activism.

Slam Poetry: Say It Like You STEAM It!
with **Daryl Funn**

TUESDAY, JUNE 23
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

Explore the many ways in which Slam Poetry can support STEAM-based learning! In this session, participants will learn about the (S)cience of word play, the (T)echnical components of lighting and sound, the skills necessary to (E)ngineer an engaging audience experience, and the (M)athematics behind poem selection, placement, and scoring – all through the (A)rt form of Slam Poetry. Following an introduction to Slam (including example poems created by middle and high school students), participants will engage in the creative writing process to compose individual and group poems in response to STEAM-focused prompts. Participating poets are encouraged to bring their questions and their judgments -- after all, you can't have a Slam Competition without judges! -- and to enjoy the impactful process of self-expression through spoken word, all while finding a new entry point into STEAM.

Theater Criticism: You're Already an Expert! with **Patrick Myers**

TUESDAY, JUNE 23
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

Engaging with art can be an entertaining, life-affirming, joyous, and therapeutic experience. However, some audience members might also feel restricted by the notion that certain experience or knowledge is required to enter a cultural setting and appreciate art. How do we positively reframe that narrative? In this workshop, participants will use their own experience and knowledge as the indispensable lens through which they can evaluate theater using the four parts of criticism (Description, Analysis, Interpretation, and Judgment). Together, we'll allow ourselves to make observations and develop opinions uninhibited by the restrictions of what we feel we "should" be looking for – and instead freely respond to the work at hand.

Presentation of Research: Woodruff Arts Center Multi Visit Program with **Jay P. Greene** and **Heidi Holmes**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
11:00 AM–12:30 PM EDT

The Woodruff Arts Center has participated in the Multi-Visit Program since 2016. Through this research study, fourth and fifth grade students attended field trips at all three Arts Partners at the Woodruff Arts Center (Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and High Museum of Art). Researchers from the University of Arkansas evaluated the impact of attending three arts-based field trips in a single school year. Led by Dr. Jay P. Greene and Dr. Heidi Holmes, this breakout session will share the results of the study and offer a Question & Answer section.

Two Sides of the Coin: Integrating Math and Drama with **Barry Stewart Mann**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
2:00–3:30 PM EDT

Math and drama may seem like complete opposites, but they actually share much in common: problem-solving, multiple pathways, conflict, cause-and-effect, sequencing. In mining these alignments, we can find engaging and innovative ways to enrich math instruction. In this workshop, we will explore a variety of drama strategies, from adaptable theater games to simple scripted pieces to the many uses of improvisation to the creation of video documents, and model their use for curriculum integration. For content, our sample lessons will focus on such math topics as coins, fractions, the number line, polygons, and more, bringing the math content to life. This will be a hands-on, move-around, laugh-out-loud workshop with activities and strategies that can be adapted broadly.

Anti-Bias in the Arts and Education
with **Maya Lawrence**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
4:30–6:00 PM EDT

When we designed the Alliance Theatre Educator Conference program, we knew it was the right time to lean into our organization's mission: to expand hearts and minds onstage and offstage. In this moment, our hearts and minds are expanding in response to the unjust killing of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, Rayshard Brooks, Dominique Rem'mie Fells, Riah Milton, and Toyin Salau; in addition to the violent racial profiling of countless Black people.

Purpose:

- In this learning experience, we will use theater-based learning strategies and The Actor's Tool Kit (being present, connected, curious, intentional, and authentic) to help us challenge our assumptions, acknowledge our biases, and establish a culture of genuine equity, inclusion, and justice in our workplaces, classrooms, and lives.

Program components:

- Exploring Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action
- Leveraging our learning towards the journey of Allyship

Let's talk about what we can do to take a stand against systemic racism.