

## **Roadside Theater's Story to Performance Workshop**

Roadside Theater's two-day Story to Performance Workshop is an oral process that matches one Roadside trainer for every 5-10 participants.

Stories are the basis of Roadside Theater's play scripting. The company has developed a specific and enjoyable methodology for uncovering the wealth of stories that every human being holds – the Story Circle. Story Circles encourage deep listening, verbal expression, respect for every participant's story, and an appreciation for the cultural gifts and talents of diverse groups of people. They have been used successfully by medical practitioners, artists, social clubs, community groups, teachers, and many others to positively discuss and reflect upon difficult issues, to collect oral history, to write plays, to teach listening and verbal skills, to empathize with the experiences of others – to learn.

As story circles have become trendy, Roadside Theater has noticed that sometimes the formalities articulated in this methodology have been abridged – often to bad result. For this reason, Roadside will not pass out a “How To” Story Circle booklet to you until you have received its in-person Story Circle training.

Below is an outline of Roadside's two-day workshop.

### **DAY ONE**

#### **Introduction**

- To Roadside Theater and its methodology
  - How and why it was developed and how Roadside uses it in its work
- To the participants
  - Why are they in attendance and what do they expect to learn?

#### **Teach Story Circle technique by conducting Story Circles with the Group**

#### **Talk about the Story Circle technique**

- What did it accomplish?
- Questions from the group

#### **Teach Scripting**

- The group picks a topic for the script
- The group is divided into smaller groups of 3-4 people
- Small groups disperse to different areas where they can have privacy
  - Small groups conduct story circles within their group
  - Each small group picks 1 story they heard in the circle to be part of the script
  - Each small group picks a person who will tell the chosen story to the larger group
  - Small groups reassemble in the larger group and proceed through a guided process in which they orally construct a simple script from the stories.

## **Production**

- The group is guided through an oral process through which they produce their simple script as a performance.

## **DAY TWO**

- Through the Story Circle process, the group reflects upon and asks questions about the previous day's activity.
- The group is divided into smaller groups of 3-5 people. These smaller groups use what they have learned to orally gather stories, write a script, and produce the script they have created.
- The groups perform their scripts for each other.
- In one final Story Circle the group reflects on what just happened.
- Post-Story Circle, the group discusses questions such as:
  - What did you learn?
  - How can you use it?
  - Other questions?