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VILLAGE PLAYERS TRAINING CENTER ANNOUNCES WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE
Classes Begin January 13, 2010

(OAK PARK, IL) Village Players Training Center, the education wing of Village Players Theater in Oak Park, is pleased to announce their 2010 Winter Class Schedule for both the Youth Training Center and the Professional Training Center.

Running from January 13 to March 6, 2010, the Village Player Youth Training Center is offering an array of classes to fit the young theater lovers interests. "Musical Theatre" will be taught by Mark Lebeau, Jr. Recommended for students from grades 6 to 8, This class will be geared toward middle school students looking to gain experience in the elements of Musical Theatre -- singing, acting, dancing. Experiences will include theater exploration, songs, and scenes. Students of all levels are encouraged to participate. "Musical Theatre" is on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00am (Jan 16th-March 6th).

"Acting Technique" will be taught by Nich Radcliffe and is recommended for students from grade 6 to 8. A safe, healthy and creative environment is the first goal. Using monologues, improvisation and scene study, as well as a variety of playwrights VPYTC will begin building a strong foundation for future success. The playing of intentions rather than the emotional qualities and how to work with the scene partners as a team. Together, they will learn about strengths and weaknesses and build a strong foundation for continued growth and achievement as artists. "Acting Technique" is on Saturdays from 11:15am-1:15pm (Jan 16th-March 6th).

Allison Black will be teaching "Introduction to Improvisation". This class is recommended for students from grade 4 to 6. Improvisation empowers us to find and create theatre as well as building important interpersonal skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. In this 8 week class, Allison will teach and practice the fundamentals of improvisation. She covers the concepts and skills of listening, stage presence, environment, and character through interactive exercises and games. "Introduction to Improvisation" meets on Saturdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm (Jan 16th-March 6th).

Our final class for the Winter term is "Scene Study" taught by Rosemary Sher. This class is recommended for students from grade 6 to 8. In this class, the student will rehearse and perform contemporary scenes. Strengthen their acting technique by developing character and relationship in an ensemble. Build self-confidence by focusing on their voice, imagination and body to communicate truthful emotion on stage. This class requires previous acting experience or permission of instructor. "Scene Study" meets on Wednesdays from 4:00pm - 6:00pm (Jan 13th-March 3rd). All youth classes are \$250 for the eight week term.

The Village Player Professional Training Center will be presenting a Masters Class in Scene Study complimenting Village Players Theater's Mainstage Theme "New American Classics" taught by Dan Taube, Artistic Director, Village Players Theater. Students will immerse themselves in the work of contemporary American masters, such as John Guare, Sam Shepard, John Patrick Shanley, Wendy Wasserstein, Lanford Wilson, Paula Vogel and many others. This is a class for theatre professionals only, where the same level of discipline, dedication, imagination and emotional availability required on the professional stage. It is also a creative gymnasium where students will be allowed to stretch their casting range, work on their style technique and develop rehearsal and performance methods that will help to serve their craft in the professional environment.

Taube is a Chicago Theatre veteran having worked as an Actor and Director with such Chicago companies as Trap Door Theatre, Circle Theatre, Signal Ensemble, Mary-Arrchie, Prop Theatre and Irish Rep, among many others. He has a BFA in Acting from NYU/Tisch School of the Arts where he studied with both Circle-in-the-Square Professional Training Workshop as well as Playwrights Horizons Theatre School. He was also mentored at The Directors Company NYC. He has 15 years teaching experience as adjunct faculty at DePaul University's The Theatre School, head of the Directing Program at Act One Studios as well as Artistic Director of Chicago Styles Workshop - a acting workshop devoted to the training and study of different acting styles from Shakespeare and Moliere to Mamet and Shepard.

The VPPTC Masters Class is not a beginning acting class. It requires that the student already have a number of tools in their acting belt. Auditions are required. The Masters Class meets on Saturdays from 1:30 to 4:30pm and runs from January 30th to March 20th. Cost for the class is \$275. To schedule an audition for this class, please contact the instructor directly at trainingcenter@village-players.org, with a copy of your headshot and resume. The Masters Class meets once a week and students are expected to be prepared for each and every class with a minimum of 2 hours of outside rehearsal.

The Village Players Training Center is run by Jacque Lueken who has worked with Steppenwolf Theatre Co as the Assistant Coordinator for their summer acting intensive 'The School at Steppenwolf.' She has also served as a mentor with Redmoon Theatre Co's Dramagirls Program and is a director who's favorite shows include *The Giver* (TYA at Apple Tree Theatre) and *Bat Boy* (Village Players Theatre). She recently directed the Noble Fool Theatricals Performing Arts Academy's *It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play*. You can see her work this winter in Village Players Studio Series production of *Savage in Limbo*.

All classes will be held at the Village Players Performing Arts Center, 1010 Madison St., Oak Park. The theater is near the Harlem exit of I-290 and is also accessible by the CTA Green and Blue lines. Plenty of parking is available on the street. The theater is handicapped accessible. You can find more information by calling 866-764-1010 or visiting www.village-players.org.

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About Village Players Theater:

Village Players Theater, a non-profit organization founded in 1961, promotes the arts through theatrical productions and educational programs that encourage cultural understanding and embrace diversity in the Village of Oak Park and the surrounding communities. With this strong foundation Village Players Theater plans on expanding the definition of the New American Classic to Oak Park, Chicago, and all the surrounding communities. Village Players Theater is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres and the West Suburban Theatre Connection.