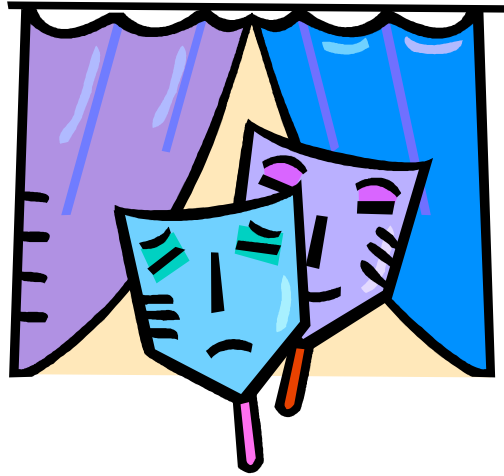


ESSENTIAL LEARNER OUTCOMES - THEATER Achieving a Standard of Excellence



MAGICAL EXPERIENCES ARTS COMPANY

Established in the United Kingdom in 1986. Working in America for the emotional development of individuals with disabilities.

THE MAGICAL EXPERIENCES ARTS COMPANY (MEAC) offers Level 5 Special Education schools and treatment settings in the State of Maryland, an opportunity to participate in interactive theater, which aims to benefit the participants in a number of therapeutic ways. MEAC offers a very unique and specialized form of theater to those in our community, who because of the severity of their disabilities, have not had the same access to 'artistic' opportunities as their higher functioning peers.

MEAC's clients are proportionally individuals with more than one disability (multi-ple disabled). The majority of these students are non-verbal, visually impaired and physically challenged. The company also devotes 25% of its programs to Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) adolescents. Due to a history of violence, abuse or trauma, these students have been unable to function in a mainstream school or residential setting.

MEAC strives to provide high quality and innovative performance workshops to both its long-term and short-term clients. All facilities should expect the organization to meet the following Standards of Excellence.

Group size - 4 to 14 students, accompanied by a minimum of one teacher/aide/ or therapist. Ages - 2 yrs to elder years.

Duration of performance - 55 minutes, with one hour set up, half an hour clean up.

Essential Learner Outcomes - modified to meet the needs of special education

Outcome 1. Perceiving, performing, and responding Aesthetic Education.

Expectations

- ◆ The students will be introduced to universal themes and stories.
- ◆ The students, through sensory integration, will hear, see and feel elements from various cultures and stories.
- ◆ The students will communicate their responses to these stories through movements of the body, facial expressions, and in some cases vocal sounds.
- ◆ Workshops for SED students will be followed by a ten minute feedback session, where students are expected to verbally express their understanding of the characters, events, and emotional challenges presented to them.
- ◆ The students will identify various elements from the workshops that will enable them to express their emotional state and responses in future workshops and in their daily lives.

Outcome 2. Historical, Cultural, and Social Context.

Expectations

- ◆ The students will be introduced to the history of theater, through their direct involvement in 'feeling' and seeing elements of dance, mime, music and drama.
- ◆ The students will demonstrate behaviors appropriate for appreciating and interacting with theater performers. (Teachers/aides will be instructed prior to the workshops if individual protocols will be carried out or not).
- ◆ During SED feedback sessions, students will be asked to reflect on their personal experiences, cultural heritage, beliefs and history in connection to their emotional experience of the workshops.
- ◆ Students will be encouraged to 'believe' in the reality of the plays. MEAC uses 'Expressionistic mime' (The art of not acting, but the expression of emotional experiences from personal memories).
- ◆ Students will be applauded by all MEAC & school staff at the completion of the workshop, in recognition of their achievements, & in recognition of theater traditions.

Outcome 3. Creative Expression and Production

Expectations.

- ◆ The students will use a variety of theatrical elements to communicate their feelings and ideas.
- ◆ The students will reflect and develop the performer's movements to explore characters and develop situations to dramatic problems. Emphasize is put on conflict resolution within the plays.
- ◆ The students will be encouraged to 'lead' the performers and develop the stories through their own emotional responses and imagination.
- ◆ The students will be able to touch and see a variety of textural costumes, cloth backdrops, props, and dramatic theater make-up.
- ◆ The students will observe varies ways in which people can communicate without verbalization.
- ◆ The students will use a variety of loco-motor and non-loco-motor movements to express their responses to the play. Children in wheelchairs can be placed on floor mats and supported physically by aides. Teachers should identify children with physical conditions that require special attention. i.e. Brittle-bone disease.
- ◆ During feedback sessions, SED students will describe what they thought the story was about, what emotional situations occurred and their own ability to participate in the workshop, with an emphasis on their ability to work as a team with their peers.

Outcome 4. Aesthetic Criticism.

Because of the specialized populations MEAC works with, the workshops outcome is discussed amongst performers and school staff following each session. At The Maryland School for the Blind, each student is given a Clinical Data Sheet, isolating one or two goals for a twelve week period. The student's Para Educator / or C&Y care specialist is required to complete the form at the end of each session. Data is than reviewed by the MEAC Director and any attending Goucher College Psychology students. The organization will produce three case studies per year, based on the Clinical data outcomes. All other participating clients can request the use of the Clinical Data Program for their residencies.

Facility staff should observe the following outcomes:

- Observations** should be made
1. Immediately following the workshop
 2. Bedtime
 3. Following days to next workshop
- Observations** include
1. Sleep patterns
 2. Reactions to emotional conflicts & situations
 3. Increase or decrease in behaviors i.e. biting
Scratching
Self-injury
 4. Ability to move limbs and head, usually
Constricted by their disabilities
 5. Increase or decrease in vocalization/sounds
 6. Interaction with peers & staff/family

At the end of MEAC's workshops the participants are applauded with positive encouragement, both verbally and physically.

- Objective of project:**
- To introduce the facility to Emotional Stimulation Therapy.
 - To introduce the students to Historical Arts Education.
 - To offer therapeutic opportunities aimed at the development Of: social skills, relationships, self-expression, anger management, body awareness, and alleviation of psychiatric symptoms.
 - To train facility staff in the above techniques.

- Closure:**
- Assessment of the project with all attending staff.
 - Completion of Clinical Data Program & discussion of results.
 - Weekly or monthly review meetings between on-site program coordinator and the Director of MEAC.

Essential Learner Outcomes revised in October 2009

- ◆ Assessment of Programs and Services.
- ◆ Revised Essential Learner Outcomes: Achieving a Standard of Excellence.
- ◆ Strategic goals for 2013-2014

◆ **Assessment of Programs and Services**

1. MEAC will provide a fully accessible interactive art-form, providing a service of therapeutic, educational and emotional benefits. Level V requests for services will be considered a priority, continuing the organization's commitment to the most severely disabled members of our community.
2. MEAC will provide-at all times- a safe environment for the physical and emotional expression of emotions. Facility staff and MEAC artists/ volunteers will provide appropriate physical and emotional support to all clients.
3. MEAC will keep it's work area clean at all times, including the regular washing down of floor mats and props on a monthly basis. All props, floor mats and bean bags/ supports will be sprayed with disinfectant spray prior to each show. Any fabric props will be laundered once per month.
4. All artists, volunteers and interns must observe the MEAC dress code provided to them at their orientation.
5. At least one facility staff member must be present throughout the performance workshop.
6. MEAC will provide each facility with the Essential Learner Outcomes, detailing the organization's commitment to excellence.
7. MEAC will improve its process of research & development by introducing a revised Clinical Data Program in August 2013.

MISSION STATEMENT

MEAC is an Arts serving organization that provides innovative and creative Theater programming to both day and residential schools, and adult care centers. MEAC provides interactive performances, which empower, inspire and educate children, adolescents and adults with severe disabilities in a safe, nurturing environment. The goal of which is to develop communication and self-expression skills. The performances provide full access to the arts to individuals with disabilities.