ACTING AND BEYOND

Helping Teens and Libraries Establish Connections through Theatre
Meet the Librarians!

Miss Lowe &
Mrs. Pelczarski (a.k.a. Mrs. P or Mrs. T-Rex)
Miss Lowe

Kind
Smart
Amazing
Fan of Clue
Pretty Peepin’
Glad
Always
Friend
Cultural Icon
Wonderfully Passionate
Nice
Good
Outgoing
Integral
Responsive
Leaders
Director
Sweet
Librarian
Welcoming
Amazing
Spectacular
Fantabulous
Great
Nest
Secretary
Teen
Cool
Thank You
T-Rex
Artistic
Stylish
Paladin
Rawr
Best Costume Maker
Always Amazing
People
Influential
Excited
Librarian
Awesome
Queen
Sweet
Pterrific
Best
Good
Everything
Cool
Coolest
Director
Patient
Great
Spectacularly
Influential
Happy
Competent
Technical
Organized
Phenomenal
Being Creative
Thank You
Nice
Dinosaur
Mrs.
Improvis Games

- One-hour program or part of a larger program
- No audience = no pressure
- Finding improv games to play
- The Rules of Improv
- Benefits of improv
- Keeping it “Library Appropriate”
Impromptu Theatre

- On-the-Spot theatre
- Paper bag skits
- Standalone program
- No audience
Whodunits: Mystery Theatre

- One rehearsal prior to performance
- Mixture of improvised and scripted
- Some costuming
- Minimal sets/props
- Older teens act
- Young teens/tweens solve mystery
Reader’s Theater

- Several weekly rehearsals
- No memorization necessary
- Royalty free scripts
- Performance for family & friends
Improv & Skits

► Several rehearsals/writing workshops prior to performance
► Teens write their own scripts for short skits
► Rehearse skits and a variety of improv games
► Results is an hour-long show that combines improvised and scripted material
Act Up! Improv Edition
Fumes of Mod Podge
Fumes of Mod Podge
Full Length Plays

- Largest time commitment
- Plays with multiple acts
- Purchased scripts and performance rights
- Audition and casting process
- Multiple sets, full makeup and costumes, props
- Backstage Crew
- A lot of work with a huge payoff!
Fairy Tale Theatre
Fairy Tale Theatre
Why do theatre in libraries?

Benefits to you and your teens
TEENS WILL LEARN ACCOUNTABILITY
TEENS WILL
GAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE
TEENS WILL

LEARN LEADERSHIP SKILLS
HELP TEENS

MAKE FRIENDS
TEENS LEARN PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS
TEENS WILL

READ DURING THE SUMMER
TEENS WILL LEARN RESPONSIBILITY
TEENS FIND

A SAFE PLACE TO BE THEMSELVES
HELP TEENS

DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS
TEENS WILL BE TEAM PLAYERS
Meet our Teens
I love the programs here
and enjoy making
a fool of myself
The librarians organize our fun and joke with us.
IT'S A GREAT WAY TO CRACK OUT OF ANY KIND OF SHYNESS SHELL
WE HAVE SO MUCH FUN AT REHEARSALS
AND CREATE SO MANY MEMORIES
THAT I’LL ALWAYS REMEMBER
My favorite part of [FTT] is working together with the actors and directors
when everybody puts their best effort in, it makes you want to as well
When asked if other libraries should have a program like FTT for teens...
YES
BECAUSE IT GIVES
KIDS MORE
OPPORTUNITIES
YES

BECAUSE KIDS THAT CAN’T BE IN THEIR SCHOOL’S THEATER PROGRAM HAVE A CHANCE AND IT’S A FUN AND GREAT WAY TO SPEND THE SUMMER
YES
IT'S A GREAT PROGRAM
TO GET TEENS INVOLVED
IN THE LIBRARY
Teen Profiles
Meet Max
Meet Molly
Parents of our teens answered the question:
What do you think the benefits of FTT have been to your child?
TEAMWORK, SOCIAL SKILLS, LEADERSHIP, AND INDEPENDENCY
LEARNING FROM DIRECTORS AND OLDER STUDENTS
SOCIAL SKILLS AS WELL AS INTRODUCING HIM TO MORE OF THE ARTS
She has benefited socially and emotionally.
SHE IS MORE OUTGOING
WHEN SHE WINS AN OSCAR...

SHE WILL HAVE FTT TO THANK
TOO MANY TO COUNT
GREAT ALL AROUND
GROWTH
MY CHILD ALWAYS FELT SAFE AND CARED FOR AT THE LIBRARY
They can interact with other kids, share their talents, and gain good friends.
THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE FUN AND GAIN SKILLS DOING THE SHOWS. THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS GET TO SEE ENJOYABLE SHOWS.
FAMILIES LOOK FORWARD TO
YEARLY PRODUCTIONS.
WE HAVE BEEN COMING
FOR 10 YEARS.
THE COMMUNITY CAN BE PROUD OF OUR
TINLEY PARK TEENAGERS!
How to Bring Theatre to Your Library
Tailoring a Program to Fit Your Community
It Depends!
Convincing the Powers that Be

- Mission Statement
- Community Partnerships
- Benefits to students, the library, and the community
Convincing the Teens

- Spreading the word
- Community service
- Air conditioning!
Choosing a Script

- Consider time & resources
- Length of the play
- Size of cast
- Type of play
  - Willing to put on a musical?
    - We Aren’t!
- Who is your audience?
- Cost of scripts & performing rights
Props, Sets, and Costumes

- Use time & resources wisely
- Minimal or elaborate
- Make, borrow, rent, or buy
- Get the teens involved
Sets with Stage
Sets with Stage
Sets with Backdrop
Props
Auditions & Casting Decisions

The Worst Part!
Rehearsals
Showtime!
Creating a Sense of Community

- During a Program
- On Social Media
Resources

► Theater in Libraries

Library Programs for Teens: Mystery Theater
By Karen J. Siwak
97801810849921

“Taking It to the Stage with Readers’ Theater”
By Marybeth Kozikowski
School Library Journal, April 2015
http://www.slj.com/2015/04/programs/takin
g-it-to-the-stage-with-readers-theater/#

“Second Theater @ Your Library”
By Laurie Down
VOYA, August 2015

“Teen Theater at the Library”
By Licia Simon
Librarians as Community Partners: An
Outreach Handbook
Edited by Carol Smallwood
9780838910061

► Theater Games

Improv Encyclopedia
http://improvencyclopedia.org/games/

► Script Companies

Samuel French
www.samuelfrench.com

Classics on Stage
www.classicsonstage.com

Dramatic Publishing
www.dramaticpublishing.com

► Readers’ Theater

http://www.teachingheart.net/readerstheater.htm
http://www.timelessteacherstuff.com/
Contact Information

Jennifer Lowe
Young Adult Librarian
Tinley Park Public Library
7851 Timber Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 845-5727
Jlowe@tplibrary.org

Clarice Pelczarski
Youth Services Librarian
Tinley Park Public Library
7851 Timber Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 845-5726
Cpelczarski@tplibrary.org