Professional Pathways in Applied Performance  
Syracuse University Intensive Theater Course in New York City 
The Fisher Center, 136 Madison Avenue at E. 31st Street, May 28-June 5, 2014

This course introduces career options using performance in contexts and venues including education, the justice system, healthcare, the political arena, community development, museums, and social service agencies. Students encounter multiple performance methods--story-based, devised, adaptations, solo, site specific, dance, and musical--and glean how such work is used with participants of all ages, ethnicities, and circumstances. Mornings feature hands-on exercises, readings, and discussions; afternoons are for field trips to field practitioners. The course--3-credit for undergrads, 1 credit for graduate students-- is open to students from Syracuse University and other institutions.

Guest Presenters and Site Visits

Maria Bauman, Associate Artistic Director of Urban Bush Women, which seeks to bring the untold & under-told histories and stories of disenfranchised people to light through dance.

Lear deBissonet is Director of, Public Works, a major new initiative of the Public Theater that seeks to engage the people of New York by making them creators and not just spectators.

Tamara Greenfield is Executive Director of Fourth Arts Block, a neighborhood-wide coalition of 26 arts & community organizations in the East Village & the Lower East Side.

Terry Greis is Executive Director of Irondale Theatre Project, an ensemble that creates plays and makes theatre as a creative team.

Rosalba Rolon is Artistic Director of Pregones Theater, an ensemble that creates and performs original musical theater and plays rooted in Puerto Rican/Latino cultures.

Jennie Smith-Peers is Executive Director of Elders Share the Arts, a community arts organization dedicated to transforming the memories of older adults into art.

Helen White is Director of Creative Arts Team, a nonprofit organization at The City University of New York that uses the power of drama to inspire youth to learn.

Course Instructor

Jan Cohen-Cruz (PhD, NYU), editor of Public: A Journal of Imagining America, was director of Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, 2007-2012. Previously, Jan taught at NYU, directing a minor in Applied Theater and initiating socially engaged projects and courses. She wrote Engaging Performance: Theatre as Call and Response and Local Acts: Community-Based Performance in the US, edited Radical Street Performance, and, with Mady Schutzman, co-edited Playing Boal: Theatre, Therapy, Activism and A Boal Companion. Jan is a University Professor at Syracuse University. She received the 2012 Association for Theatre in Higher Education Award for Leadership in Community-Based Theatre & Civic Engagement.

Course Expense

Three credits of study. Syracuse fulltime undergraduate students: $1037 per credit (total of $3,111); graduate students: $1,294 total one credit); and students from other schools: $703 per credit (total $2109).

For more information & to apply, contact Jan Cohen-Cruz  jcohencr@syr.edu.