



Creative Education with Idiot String

Learn & Play With Us!

Idiot String offers a variety of creative workshops for all ages, some featuring our resident troupe, the Peripatetic Players, who you may have seen performing in a park or public space over the summer.

Workshops may be a single session of one to three hours long, or a series of workshop sessions. Longer workshops will allow for more in-depth exploration and ensemble-building, but shorter workshops will provoke imagination, discovery, and lots of fun. Each workshop can be tailored to the age range of the participants.

Our primary workshop offerings are described below. Please contact us to custom-design a curriculum for your school or organization; for information on teaching residencies or in-depth workshop series; or to book a workshop.

Adaptation (1st grade and up)

The Peripatetic Players will share their process of adapting well-loved stories to the stage, and will guide your group in creating a staged version of a chosen story, poem, or work of art. Longer workshops can add songs, props, characters, physical comedy, and more to the final show.

Adaptation: Carquinez Strait StoryLab (1st grade and up)

In this version of our Adaptation workshop, participants will create a short performance based on a vintage news item, historical facts, or characters

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from local history. This workshop connects to Idiot String's site-specific production premiering in June, 2019, in Port Costa.

Make-A-Song (Kindergarten and up)

Let's sing! Starting with a known melody or folk song, we'll co-create new lyrics and learn simple rhythms and instrumentation to enjoy singing and making music together. This short workshop is best as a one-off session or in conjunction with another workshop.



The Peripatetic Players in *Shakespeare or Space Wars* (photo: Serena Morelli)

Eccentric Characters (3rd grade and up)

Create your very own character the way the Peripatetic Players do it. We'll use games and techniques drawn from physical theatre and clown to explore larger-than-life personalities based on participants' own interests, skills, and on-stage personas. In longer workshops we can play with props and/or costume pieces. This workshop is best for those with some performing experience.

Slapstick and Physical Comedy (3rd grade and up)

Play with the Peripatetic Players as you learn to (safely) run into walls, slip, trip, and fall to comic effect. We'll draw on traditions of clowning and physical comedy to break down and build up the funny. Participants in shorter

workshops will walk away with a cool bag of tricks; in longer workshops, we'll create solo or partner scenes that begin to tell a story.

More Physical Comedy: Now with Props! (3rd grade and up)

There's so much to play with! We'll explore found objects and delightfully simple designs to bring an extra level of playful fun to performing. We can optionally create props together to take home. This workshop can stand alone, or be added on to an Adaptation or Physical Comedy session.

Writers' Workshop (5th grade and up)

We'll use theatre games and performance techniques to explore setting, character, and plot. Then, each workshop participant will be guided through writing exercises based on their creative explorations. Shorter workshops will produce text that can serve as a springboard for continued projects, and longer workshops can include sharing, feedback, and revisions.

Experimental Theater Lab (9th grade and up)

Don't let the word "experimental" next to "theater" scare you! In this collaborative, lab-style workshop, we'll experiment with making theater from scratch and working without a script, drawing on techniques from the worlds of physical theater and devised performance. We'll start with an exploration of movement and staging, then layer in elements such as sound, lighting, music, and (in longer workshops) costumes and props. Leveraging the natural human inclination to find stories anywhere and everywhere, we'll create our stories using words as just one part of a super-cool toolbox.

More About Idiot String

Mission & History

Idiot String's Mission

Idiot String is a small professional theater company who create ensemble-based performances for kids and adults. Through theater, we hope to provoke imaginative engagement with daily life and compassionate engagement with others. Our plays enchant, connect, and inspire. They are opportunities for joyful shared experience and participatory fun, designed to incite delight and spontaneous community wherever we appear.



A Peripatetic Players performance in Pleasanton, California.

Summer Tours with the Peripatetic Players

Every summer since 2014, Idiot String's troupe of eccentric travelling thespians, the **Samuel Peaches Peripatetic Players**, have toured their shows to Bay Area parks and public spaces. Peripatetic Players shows are free to audiences of all ages, and are performed on FluxWagon, our brightly-painted, folding mobile stage. The Players set up the stage before each show and interact with the audience throughout. Kids and adults love the Peripatetic Players' engaging adaptations of children's literature and popular stories that include fun songs, physical comedy, and the chance to play along. Past Peripatetic Players productions include *O Best Beloved* (2014), an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "Just-So" stories; *Aesop Amuck* (2015), based on the famous fables; *Shakespeare or Space Wars* (2016 & 2017), a mashup of Romeo and Juliet with a certain cinematic space opera franchise; and *Shiver We Timbers!* (2018), a pirate-themed choose-your-own-adventure play.

The Peripatetic Players' summer tours have visited parks and public spaces in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Pleasanton, Hayward and Port Costa.

Non-Peripatetic Productions

Idiot String premiered and toured its first fully-original play, *Elixir Of Life*, in Bay Area parks during Fall, 2017. *Elixir of Life* told the story of a snake-oil seller who visits the fictional town of Port Promise, California, with a wagon full of mysteries. The audience became part of the story in this interactive adventure, following the actors to various playing spaces arranged throughout each performance site.

In June, 2019, Idiot String will premiere a site-specific play, *Port Stories*, in Port Costa, California. *Port Stories* tells numerous tales of migration into, away from, and through the Bay Area, based on the history -- both real and imagined -- of Port Costa. *Port Stories* is another interactive adventure, and will take place throughout the Port Costa School and at various locations in downtown Port Costa.



Elixir of Life in Alameda, California (photo: Serena Morelli)

Port Costa Residency

In 2018 Idiot String became the unofficial official resident theater company of Port Costa, in association with the **Port Costa Conservation Society**. With the Port Costa School as our home base, we are creating new site-specific and touring plays, offering workshops and other educational events, hosting artist's retreats and salons, and presenting performances and other entertaining events for the general public. As part of our residency, the

Crockett Community Foundation is supporting a public workshop series, in-school arts education sessions at local schools, and reduced-price admission for local residents.



Julie Douglas and Maria A. Leigh in *Elixir of Life*, during a sneak-peek performance at the Burlington Hotel (photo: Serena Morelli)

What Folks Are Saying...

Awards

Best of Fringe & Sold-Out Awards, San Francisco Fringe Festival 2013

Stuart Award for Excellence in Theatre - Best Directors, 2013

San Francisco Awesome Foundation Award, 2014

Theatre Bay Area Recommended Production, 2017

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THEATER

**OUT
THE OF
BOX**

Press & Audience Reactions

Press for *Shakespeare or Space Wars*:

“Whether your destination is fair Verona or the fearsome Death Moon, you couldn’t ask for a more diverting rest stop than the Peripatetic Players’ folding FluxWagon stage in a park not far away.” —[Sam Hurwitt, East Bay Times](#)

“The audience... clamored to participate in the show and roared with laughter in all the right moments.” —[Maria Judnick, Santa Clara Weekly](#)

“The result is as charming as it is chaotic” —[Lily Janiak, San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Audience comments:

What a great way to spend an afternoon and introduce your children to theatre. Plenty of crafty commentary in mix for parents too. Thank you so much! We loved it. —Jason, on *Shakespeare or Space Wars*

Great show!! My kids had a blast participating! Hope to catch the show again!!! —Lin, on *Shakespeare or Space Wars*

So much fun! Hilarious writing, great physical acting, and perfect for kids and adults. —Kiki, on *Shakespeare or Space Wars*

this outdoor show was
so engaging i forgot
to eat my picnic!
—Haiku by Zack about *Aesop Amuck*



Thumper (Joan Howard) and audience members practice Kazoo at *Shakespeare or Space Wars* (2017). Photo by Serena Morelli.

Keep In Touch!

Booking Contact

For bookings and more information, please contact Rebecca Longworth, Artistic Director at 415.671.9574 or rebecca.longworth@gmail.com

Online & Social Media

Find **Idiot String** at www.idiotstring.org or on [Facebook](#)

The **Peripatetic Players** are on the web at www.peripateticplayers.org; you can also find them on [Facebook](#) or follow on [Twitter @SamuelPeaches](#) and [Instagram @PeripateticPlayers](#)

At either site, sign up for our mailing list, and be the first to know about upcoming events!