

MTS PD Day Organized by  
*Manitoba Drama Educators' Association*

# Act Up!

## Drama as Transformation

Friday October 23rd, 2026  
St. John's-Ravenscourt School  
400 South Dr., Winnipeg, MB  
9:00am - 3:30pm  
In-person & Virtual Sessions  
@mbdramaeducators



# Membership & Conference Fees

## **In-Person:**

|                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| MDEA Conference Fee                       | \$110.00 |
| MDEA Conference & Membership Fee          | \$90.00  |
| MDEA Student Conference & Membership Fee* | \$60.00  |
| MDEA 2026-2027 Membership Fee             | \$90.00  |

## **Virtual:**

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| MDEA Conference & Membership Fee | \$50.00 |
| MDEA Conference Fee              | \$60.00 |

**\*NOTE: Student fee is applicable for those studying in a Bachelor's degree program. Those purchasing must provide a university student identification card or other proof of studies.**

***This offer is only available in-person.***



# Cancellation Policy

No refunds will be offered after Friday, October 16, 2026 (one week before the event). Any cancellations before October 14<sup>th</sup> are subject to an administrative fee. Any registration resulting in a no-show will **not** be entitled to a refund. If you have cancelled in error, please contact [sageevents.mbteach.org](https://sageevents.mbteach.org) for assistance.

# Act Up!

## Drama as Transformation

For MTS PD Day 2026, Manitoba Drama Educators' Association has chosen the theme of addressing biases, crises, and inequities while developing voice and agency through drama. We invite you to explore with us as we engage in activities that foster empathy, connection, and action with the goal of creating for a more inclusive, just, and safe world. We recognize that the socio-political climate of today has shown that this work is needed more than ever and we believe in fostering skills that will allow for our students to be active citizens as well as artists.

Participants will select their **hands-on workshops** and take the skills that they have learned to create a small **performance** with a learning group, sorted by Early, Middle, and Senior Years. You will be given time to get to know and work with your group for most of the afternoon before we come together to celebrate the day through sharing our learning.

We will naturally weave in the **Manitoba Global Competencies** (Creativity, Citizenship, Connection to Self, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Communication) throughout our day. We will also encourage participants and facilitators alike to consider how we can help learners - and ourselves-- in preparing to reach our full potential and to live **Mino-Pimatisiwin (The Good Life)** in which we have hope, belonging, meaning, and purpose while honouring our gifts through nurturing Mamahtawisiwin **(The Wonder We are Born With)**.

# In-Person Schedule

|                          |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:30AM - 8:55AM</b>   | <b>Registration &amp; Refreshments</b>                                              |
| <b>9:00AM - 9:15AM</b>   | <b>Welcoming Remarks &amp; Schedule Overview</b>                                    |
| <b>9:15AM - 10:15AM</b>  | <b>Keynote Performance</b>                                                          |
| <b>10:15AM - 10:30AM</b> | <b>Break</b>                                                                        |
| <b>10:30AM - 11:30AM</b> | <b>Sessions A1, B1, C1, or D1</b>                                                   |
| <b>11:30AM - 12:30PM</b> | <b>Sessions A2, B2, C2, or D2</b>                                                   |
| <b>12:30PM - 1:30PM</b>  | <b>Lunch &amp; AGM</b>                                                              |
| <b>1:30PM - 2:00PM</b>   | <b>Rehearsal Time</b>                                                               |
| <b>2:00PM - 2:15PM</b>   | <b>Break</b>                                                                        |
| <b>2:15PM - 2:45PM</b>   | <b>Rehearsal Time</b>                                                               |
| <b>2:45PM - 3:30PM</b>   | <b>Participant Performances<br/>Closing Remarks<br/>Prize Draw &amp; Drama Game</b> |

# Keynote Performers (In-Person)

## **100 Decibels: A Deaf Mime Troupe**



100 Decibels is a high-energy physical comedy troupe made up of Deaf artists from the Philippines, Manitoba, and Poland. Trained in mime and storytelling by award-winning Hot Thespian Action's Shannon Guile, they create crisp, jaw-dropping illusions that leave audiences laughing, crying, and thinking. Their goal: entertain like crazy while building bridges between the hearing (non-deaf) and Deaf worlds.

# Session A1 (In-Person) Facilitators

## Red Threads of Peace Playback Theatre



Red Threads of Peace Playback Theatre has been active in Winnipeg for about 15 years and uses Playback theatre as a tool for community building, peace-making and social change. We've been supported by the Gas Station Arts Centre, and worked with many communities for workshops and performances including Villa Cabrini, Artbeat Studios, The Storytelling Festival, Rainbow Resource Centre, Mosaic Newcomer Family Resource Centre, Oak Table and more.

# A1: The Heart of the Story (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades 5-12 (adaptable for EY)

**Participant Maximum:** 25 people

Playback Theatre is a participatory theatre form practiced in countries around the world as an artform and as an applied theatre tool in peacebuilding, social change and healing projects.

This participatory workshop will teach the basics of playback theatre and explore how to use the tools in a classroom setting. We'll look at some of the principles of using playback so that students feel seen and see each other.

We'll play some silly games that build trust and skills and then teach some of the theatrical forms used to 'play back' stories.

# Session B1 (In-Person) Facilitator

**Dr. Izzeddin Hawamda**  
Founder of Sadaa-Echoes  
Consulting  
PhD- Peace and Conflict  
Studies, Educator, Writer, &  
Public Speaker.



Dr. Izzeddin Hawamda is an educator, storyteller, and peacebuilding scholar. He holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies, with research focused on dialogue, conflict transformation, and the role of storytelling in peacebuilding. His work explores how personal narratives can foster empathy, challenge assumptions, and build meaningful connections across diverse communities.

Dr. Hawamda works in anti-racist education across educational and community settings, supporting dialogue around identity, history, belonging, and inclusion. He is the founder of Sadaa- Echoes Consulting, a storytelling initiative that creates spaces for people to share lived experiences and connect through story.

He teaches at Canadian Mennonite University, bridging academic scholarship with community-based practice. Dr. Hawamda is also a featured TEDx speaker and recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his contributions to community dialogue and education.

# B1: The Power of Stories: Building Belonging Through Storytelling (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades 7-12 (adaptable for SY)

**Participant Maximum:** 30 people

Stories have the power to shape how we understand ourselves, one another, and the world around us. This engaging and interactive workshop explores how storytelling can build community, foster empathy, and create pathways toward healing and belonging.

Through shared narratives, reflection, and guided dialogue, participants will explore how our stories influence identity and relationships, while discovering how listening to the stories of others can bridge differences and create meaningful connections. The workshop offers a welcoming space for participants to share, listen, reflect, and learn from one another.

Participants will leave with a deeper appreciation of the power of everyday stories and how storytelling can contribute to more connected, compassionate, and inclusive communities.

## Disclaimers:

This is an interactive and participatory workshop. Participants will be invited to reflect on and, where they feel comfortable, share personal experiences. Sharing is always voluntary. We ask participants to approach one another's stories with respect, curiosity, and care.

# Session C1 (In-Person) Facilitators

**Julie Delorme**  
**Indigenous Learning**  
**Support Teacher**  
**Winnipeg School Division**



Aaniin, Hello & Bonjour! My name is Julie Delorme, I have many roles and responsibilities, I am a Kookum, Mother, Wife, Educator and the list goes on. I started my career as a Child and Youth Care Practitioner which led me into the education field. I have been an educator for 15 years and am passionate about Indigenous Education being an equal part of our education system. As a classroom teacher my daily goal was to teach Indigenous Knowledge, understanding the beauty and diversity amongst nations, as an Indigenous Grad Coach I strived to shed light on barriers faced by Indigenous students to help make systemic changes, as an Indigenous Learning Support Teacher, I work alongside leadership teams to incorporate Indigenous Education. I am honoured to have the opportunity to share and learn with you.

*"We grow stronger together, we build on each other's strengths and are there to support one another in times of need. The story of the Three Sisters has been teaching me this."*

# Session C1 (In-Person) Facilitators

**Hope Figueroa**  
**Guidance Counsellor**  
**Winnipeg School Division**



Hope Figueroa (she/her) is the current President of the Manitoba Drama Educators' Association. She taught Drama and Humanities for grades 7-12 in Winnipeg School Division for eight years and transitioned into Student Services for the past three. Hope is currently a Graduate Student at the University of Manitoba pursuing her Masters of Education in Counselling Psychology.

During her time as a classroom teacher, Hope focused on process and reflective-based practices that encouraged young performers to prioritize their developing artistic identities and skills. She has experience working with newcomer students, students with disabilities, and students experiencing mental health challenges and believes in using a trauma-informed approach to building a healthy learning environment.

Though her role in schools has changed, her love for the craft has not. Hope is an active performer in Winnipeg's community theatre and improv scenes, has led adult improv workshops, and is dabbling in the world of directing shows during theatre festival seasons.

# C1: Amplifying Indigenous Voices through Drama and Allyship (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades 7-12 (adaptable for EY)

**Participant Maximum:** 25 people

From 2022 to 2024, facilitators Julie Delorme and Hope Figueroa both worked at the same high school in Winnipeg's North End. In their respective roles, both prioritized Indigenous Education and sought to increase its presence in classrooms and whole-school spaces. Hope wanted to explore Indigenous histories, issues, and resiliency through theatre and asked Julie if she could come into her Drama classroom. This workshop is a recreation of that meaningful experience.

In the first part of this hands-on workshop, Julie will share her knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Pedagogy and how we can delve into reconciliation with students in an authentic way. She will guide educators as they explore the fundamentals of allyship and appropriation and its impact. Through her activities and discussions, Julie will help to make connections and deepen understanding of Indigenous Education

Hope will work with educators during the second part of the workshop by leading them through the project: adapting Indigenous creation stories and/or picture books for the stage. Participants will work in small groups and engage with their chosen text through reading, scriptwriting, and ultimately performing. Through this work, educators will exercise their creative, collaboration, and communication skills and will be able to bring this project to their own school communities.

# Session D1 (In-Person) Facilitator

**Christina Peabody**  
**Drama & French Immersion**  
**Teacher**  
**River East Transcona School**  
**Division**



With a diverse background in education and the performing arts, Christina has worked collaboratively in curriculum creation, teaching, translation, and media content development. Her expertise fosters creative problem-solving, team building, and support for learners of all needs. Through a unique blend of storytelling and expression, she leads with empathy in crafting engaging and inclusive educational experiences where students can center themselves within their own education.

Christina Peabody is a Past President of the Manitoba Drama Educators' Association.

# D1: Forum Theatre and the Classroom: Building Community Through Problem Solving (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades K-12

**Participant Maximum:** 25 people

Forum Theatre is an interactive drama strategy that empowers students to explore real-life challenges through performance, discussion, and collaboration. Rather than watching a scene unfold from the audience, students are invited to step into the action, test new ideas, and experiment with different ways of responding to everyday conflicts and dilemmas.

In this hands-on workshop, educators will experience the fundamentals of Forum Theatre and discover how it can be adapted for classrooms across grade levels and subject areas. Participants will learn practical strategies for facilitating safe, inclusive dramatic experiences that encourage students to think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively.

By engaging in role-play and guided reflection, educators will see how Forum Theatre strengthens students' problem-solving skills by allowing them to explore multiple perspectives, evaluate possible solutions, and practice respectful decision-making. The process also develops communication skills by encouraging active listening, empathy, and confident self-expression, while fostering a strong sense of classroom community through shared experiences and collective learning.

Whether you're new to drama or looking to expand your instructional toolkit, this workshop will provide adaptable, curriculum-connected strategies that help create classrooms where every student has a voice and the opportunity to contribute to positive change.

# Session A2 (In-Person) Facilitator

**Shohreh Saeedibagha**  
Instructor  
Manitoba Theatre for  
Young People (MTYP)



Shohreh Saeedibagha is a theatre educator, actor, director, and PhD student in Education at the University of Manitoba. She currently teaches at both the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg, bringing together drama/theatre education, experiential learning, and critical and creative approaches to teaching.

Shohreh has more than a decade of experience teaching drama and theatre across a wide range of age groups, from preschool children to university students. She currently also works as a theatre instructor with Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP). Before coming to Canada, she taught drama and theatre in schools in Iran for several years.

Her practice and research explore how drama can support voice, agency, empathy, participation, and social change. Her work draws on approaches including storytelling, drama games, devised theatre, Playback Theatre, Forum Theatre, and research-based theatre. She is particularly interested in creating participatory spaces where learners can explore different perspectives, develop confidence, and use drama to imagine possibilities for change.

# A2: Finding our Voice: Drama Activities for Different Ages (In-Person)

**Audience: Grades K-12**

**Participant Maximum: 30 people**

This interactive workshop explores how drama can support students in developing voice, confidence, empathy, and agency across different age groups. Participants will experience a variety of warm-up and voice activities that can be adapted for Early, Middle, and Senior Years.

For younger learners, we will explore how a short story can become an interactive drama through movement, character, sound, and role-play. For older students, we will move toward Forum Theatre, using short scenes to explore conflict, power, inequality, and different possibilities for change.

Participants will leave with practical activities that can be adapted to different grade levels and used in their own classrooms.

No previous acting or drama experience is required. Participants will be invited to move, create images, work collaboratively, and take part in short dramatic scenes. Comfortable clothing is recommended.

Participation can be adapted based on individual comfort and mobility.

# B2: The Power of Stories: Building Belonging Through Storytelling (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades 7-12 (adaptable for SY)

**Participant Maximum:** 30 people

This session is the second half of the aforementioned workshop offered by Dr. Izzeddin Hawamda. Participants of the earlier workshop must register for this concluding portion.

# C1: Amplifying Indigenous Voices through Drama and Allyship (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades 7-12 (adaptable for SY)

**Participant Maximum:** 25 people

This session is the second half of the aforementioned workshop offered by Julie Delorme and Hope Figueroa. Participants of the earlier workshop must register for this concluding portion.

# Session D2 (In-Person) Facilitator

**Kyle Collins**  
**Drama & Theatre Teacher**  
**Winnipeg School Division**



Kyle Collins is the Theatre Teacher at Elmwood High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he leads Troupe 2190. He founded and led Troupe 10336, the first STAR Troupe in Manitoba and a three-time National Gold Honour Troupe. He currently serves as TAEA's National Director of STAR Events & Membership alongside his role as Manitoba Chapter Director. He is also a past president of the Manitoba Drama Educators Association (2019–2021). Kyle builds his classroom practice around Collective Creation and Theatre of the Oppressed, guiding students to develop original theatrical work that speaks to personal, community, and global issues. When he's not in the classroom or on a festival floor, he's an unapologetic Batman enthusiast.

# D2: From Blank Page to Bold Stage: The Art of Collective Creation (In-Person)

**Audience:** Grades K-12

**Participant Maximum:** 25 people

What does it mean to create theatre with a community rather than for one? This 60-minute workshop explores Collective Creation as a process for equipping students to mine their world for inspiration and to articulate their own truths on stage. Participants will get an overview of the Collective Creation model, a look at how it's structured and taught in a working high school classroom (including a full unit breakdown), and then step into the process themselves: generating original material together in real time.

Educators will leave with a practical framework for guiding students through devised work that centres their voices and lived experiences. This process helps foster an environment where students focus on empowerment, allyship, and meaningful change.

# Virtual Schedule

|                          |                                                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:30AM - 8:55AM</b>   | <b>Logging In &amp; Registration</b>                      |
| <b>9:00AM - 9:15AM</b>   | <b>Welcoming Remarks</b>                                  |
| <b>9:15AM - 10:15AM</b>  | <b>Keynote Speaker</b>                                    |
| <b>10:15AM - 10:30AM</b> | <b>Break</b>                                              |
| <b>10:30AM - 11:15AM</b> | <b>Session #1</b>                                         |
| <b>11:15AM - 11:30AM</b> | <b>Improv Mini-Game</b>                                   |
| <b>11:30PM - 1:00PM</b>  | <b>Lunch</b>                                              |
| <b>1:00PM - 1:45PM</b>   | <b>Session #2</b>                                         |
| <b>1:45PM - 2:00PM</b>   | <b>Improv Mini-Game</b>                                   |
| <b>2:00PM - 2:45PM</b>   | <b>Session #3</b>                                         |
| <b>2:45PM - 3:30PM</b>   | <b>Closing Remarks<br/>Sharing<br/>Participation Draw</b> |

# Keynote: The Pedagogical and Personal Potential of Storywork (Virtual)

**Dr. Marc Kuly**



Dr. Marc Kuly is an associate professor and administrator in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg. He teaches Inner City Education, Just and Effective Schooling, and courses on storytelling pedagogy. Marc's primary research (and life) interest is in storytelling. He has received numerous awards for his use of story in teaching and considers himself lucky to be in a profession where stories of different people are brought together regularly.

# Session 1 Facilitator (Virtual)

Dr. Graham W. Lea  
Associate Professor  
University of Manitoba



Graham W. Lea is an associate professor of theatre/drama education at the University of Manitoba where he focuses on research-based theatre methodology, narrative in mathematics education, and theatre/drama in health and teacher education research. In addition to being a former K-12 math and computer science teacher, he has been involved in theatre for more than thirty years, working as a playwright, stage manager, director, actor, musician, and technician.

# Session 1: Staging Transformation in the Zoom Box: Devised Performance Techniques for Remote Learning (Virtual)

**Audience: Grades K-12**

The COVID-19 Pandemic made it necessary for theatre and drama classes to move to on-line spaces. Since then, platforms such as Zoom have continued to bring people together across geographic boundaries to create theatre together. This hands-on workshop for K-12 educators explores playful possibilities for transforming the Zoom box into a theatrical space, bringing a sense of theatrical stagecraft into on-line performances.

The session begins with an introduction to some low-barrier techniques to build a shared toolkit of approaches. Following this introduction, participants will be led through a short devising process, framed through the lens of Manitoba's Global Competencies, that puts these techniques into action, experiencing first-hand how space, light, sound, objects, and digital effects can be used in classes to create theatrical worlds on screen.

# Session 2 Facilitator (Virtual)

**Cuinn Joseph**

**Teacher**

**River East Transcona School Division**

Cuinn Joseph is an award-winning, composer, designer, and creator from Winnipeg, MB. With almost a decade of professional experience, Joseph has worked with companies such as Rainbow Stage, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, and his own JHG Creative to help bring stories to life for local audiences. As a theatre educator, Joseph focuses on helping students explore their own identities through the process of creation.

# Session 2: Empowerment Through Creation (Virtual)

**Audience:** Grades 7-12

This workshop aims to provide educators with lessons and projects that have the express goal of helping students explore their identity and feel empowered by their art. This session will take a very practical approach by providing lesson plans and resources for teachers to implement in their own classrooms if they so choose.

# Session 3 Facilitator (Virtual)

Trevor McIntyre  
Drama Teacher  
Mountain View School Division



My name is Trevor McIntyre. I was born and raised in Dauphin, Manitoba. When I was a child, I was fascinated by the artistry of the production of shows such as *Wizard of Oz*, *Sister Act* and *The Golden Girls*. Growing up I was a performer but wouldn't say I wanted to be the centre of attention. It wasn't until grade 11 I discovered theatre and fell in love. Since then, I have had many roles in theatre from running the concession stand, producing, writing, directing and performing. I have had the pleasure of participating in nearly 30 productions, including *Mamma Mia*, *Mean Girls*, *Les Misérables*, and *Rock and Roll Heaven: The Musical*. I also pursued theatre at the post-secondary level.

I also love being an audience member. One of my favourite activities is to watch live theatre and have traveled all over Manitoba to watch theatre productions.

I now proudly teach drama at Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School in the same building I fell in love with theatre all those years ago. This has allowed me to share that love with my students. I believe that theatre has a place for everyone, where everyone can thrive. For me, theatre has been an absolute lifesaver for me, and I do not know where I would be without it. Also, like many other theatre kids, what makes me happy makes me cry. In *Wicked*, Elphaba singing "Defying Gravity" moves my soul, as it should for those who have a soul.

# Session 3: Non Performance Based Assessments (Virtual)

**Audience: Grades 7-12**

Realistically, not every student who is enrolled in a drama class are naturally comfortable standing in front of an audience and performing. Working in a rural community I have to be creative on how we assess and evaluate my drama students. This workshop will provide teachers with tools and projects for students that involve little to no performance. I have been successful with these projects and tools in my classroom, as I have seen students' confidence skyrocket who may have only enrolled in drama class because "mom wanted them to" or "they needed to be enrolled in something", which could lead them to participating more in performance-based assessments later on. I want everyone believe that there is a place for everyone in the theatre.