

### **Beginning Acting – Level 3/4 - Lisa Norris-Lynner**

For young dancers and aspiring actors, a creative, play-based approach to learning about acting that helps students develop basic skills while building their confidence as performers and learning to work collaboratively with others. Students will participate in a wide variety of activities, from theatre games and improvisation, to scene work and an introduction to Shakespeare, with occasional opportunities to perform for parents and friends at special in-studio showcases, as well as DanzArts' spring recital.

### **Acting Through Shakespeare – Levels 5/6 & 7/8-Adult**

An exploration of acting, based on the concept that Shakespeare is to Theatre what Ballet is to Dance – classical training that provides performers with a solid foundation, skills, and the confidence to tackle any other style of performance. Open to students of any level of experience, this ongoing laboratory introduces training and rehearsal strategies developed at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, using a creative approach where imagination, movement, and emotional connection come first, and the language comes last. (This makes it particularly good for dancers, as we start in their comfort zone with physicality and rhythm and build towards working with text.) Physical and vocal training is emphasized as a pathway to understanding and acting the texts of Shakespeare – or any other playwright – with confidence, clarity, and emotional truth. Performance opportunities available for students will include special in-studio showcases throughout the year, as well as DanzArts' spring recital.

Two sections of the class will run con-currently – Lisa Norris-Lynner will lead the 5/6 class, and Brian Lynner will lead the 7/8-Adult class – and the classes will occasionally be combined for group warm-ups, exercises and ensemble work. Both actors and dancers are equally encouraged to take this class, including adult actors who want to sharpen their skills (or simply stay in shape) to play Shakespeare.

**Brian R. Lynner** has worked as an actor at some of the nation's leading regional theatres, including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and New Jersey Shakespeare Festival. He began teaching Shakespeare workshops in Iowa high schools in 1991. This led to the creation of the Iowa Shakespeare Project – an annual summer Shakespeare Festival that employed professional actors and directors from around the country and served over 30,000 Iowans with free outdoor productions of full-length Shakespeare plays in cities throughout the state. The Shakespeare Project included extensive year-round educational outreach programs, including the Iowa Shakespeare Conservatory, a summer actor-training program for high school students. As an Iowa Arts Council Artist-In-Residence for the Shakespeare Project, Brian visited schools throughout the state, bringing Shakespeare into the classroom for thousands of Iowa students from K-12 schools to colleges.

Brian is the co-founder of Unexpected Company, a Des Moines based group of theatre artists dedicated to providing "unexpected" productions of new work, educational experiences, and services to schools and communities. He has appeared in productions for the Des Moines Playhouse, Repertory Theater of Iowa, and The Drama Workshop, where he also served for two

years as Artistic Director. He has also provided private coaching services to actors looking to hone their classical acting skills, and taught acting classes for age groups from elementary school to adults, and served as an adjunct instructor for the Drake University Department of Theatre. Shakespeare is one of Brian's greatest passions and he is happy to be able to share it with students at Des Moines DanzArts.

**Lisa Norris-Lynner** studied in London before completing her BFA in theatre Drake University. She has worked professionally as a director, stage manager, scenic artist, and designer, at professional theatres around the country. Lisa developed a passion for working with young artists early in her career while working as a production stage manager at Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., directing productions and teaching classes for youth and adults at the company's Theatre School. She then moved south to the Civic Theatre of Central Florida's Theatre for Young People in Orlando, where she stage managed, designed productions and taught classes for adults and teens. As co-founder and Producing Director of the Iowa Shakespeare Project, Lisa served as producer of the company's summer festival and other productions, directed several productions and managed the company's Conservatory and college intern program. She also developed educational outreach programs and worked as an Iowa Arts Council Artist-In-Residence, teaching Shakespeare workshops in Iowa K-12 schools. As a founding partner of Unexpected Company, she has directed and produced productions, developed educational programs, and produced a staged reading series of new plays by Iowa playwrights. She is also a produced playwright.

Lisa served for two years as co-Artistic Director of The Drama Workshop, where her tenure included directing several shows and working with Des Moines area high school students to create an original performance piece chronicling their memories of the events of September 11. She has developed and coordinated arts education programs for the Des Moines Public Schools and local non-profits including Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines and CultureALL, and is a guest lecturer on American theatre for William Penn University's College of Working Adults. Lisa fell in love with theatre at an early age – she wrote and produced her first play in first grade, and has been a “Shakespeare Geek” since middle school. She is thrilled to share her passions with young people and help them develop as artists.