



"GRITS: The Musical" Educational Offerings

"Girls Raised in the South-GRITS: The Musical" offers the following improvisation workshop, university session and/or "In School" show.

The Art of Improvisation for Elementary and High School Students:

An educational program designed for choral and drama students, audiences, and associations.

GRITS Gals offer an original educational and performance residency based on the art of improvisation, with the added benefit of participants (students) performing before a live audience during a "mini-show" of a "GRITS: The Musical" production.

Choral and/or Drama Students:

Regardless of age, or skill level, students are invited to participate in a pre-concert workshop exploring improvisation and improvisational techniques with the actresses from "GRITS: The Musical".

The participants have an opportunity to showcase their talent and their newly acquired skills before a live audience.

Here's how it works:

- Performance day, prior to the "GRITS: The Musical" full production at your venue, GRITS Gals will visit the school of your choosing to host the workshop. (Students may also come to your venue if you wish. Where and when the workshop takes place is flexible on an individual basis.)
- GRITS Gals will require a 2 hour block of time for the workshop, one with students and one for the "Mini-Show".
- Participating students (chosen by school staff) regardless of age, but limited to 16 to insure individual attention, will meet with the GRITS gals in a predetermined location on school campus (or at your venue) during the first hour of the block.
- For the next hour, the GRITS Gals will lead the group in musical and rhythmic improvisation exercises, explaining and exploring a variety of vocal styles and choreography. By the end of this hour-long session, all participants will be ready to improvise during the "GRITS: The Musical" performance.
- During the second hour of the workshop, The GRITS Gals will set up the stage for the "Mini show" and students will take their seats nearby.
- During the "mini-show" production time, participants will be invited to the stage part of the show for their chance to shine. Participants will be encouraged as they

perform, reminded that there are “no mistakes” when improvising, as long as they are having fun. Audiences will be encouraged to cheer and support these budding new performers.

- Participants are encouraged to invite their friends and family to the concert where the GRITS Gals will take a moment to explain how important the arts can be in a community and encourage them to become regular subscribers to your local concert series or arts alliance.

GRITS “Stage Work” 101 for Universities:

Many university students want to know how to get into the business. We are asked on a regular basis about writing for the stage, theater production and the audition process. We are very happy to talk with your university students in an open environment prior to our production about anything!

Here’s how it works:

- GRITS gals will arrive at a predetermined location on your universities campus before or after show time at your venue.
- GRITS gals will introduce themselves and offer a little background on their personal experience with the theatrical world.
- Writer/Director/Performer, Erica McGee will offer a personal testimony about how “Girls Raised in the South- GRITS: The Musical” came to life.
- Students will be allowed to ask questions either in written format prior to the “talk back” or in person at the event. No question is off the table!
- We can also add a “**DIVA/DIVO 101**” course to the event for students who wish to learn more about microphone technique, “working” the stage, on stage presence and confidence building techniques for auditions.

GRITS Gals are open to discussion about other educational ideas you and your organization may have. We believe that it is important to connect with youth about arts and arts education!

These offerings are also a great way to get press out about your event and connect with potential patrons through students! It’s a WIN-WIN-WIN for us all!

We hope to see you and meet with many folks in your community. After all, that’s why we do this!

Please direct specific questions concerning arts out-reach to:
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