

Me 2 Z Devise Residency Description

By Jimez Alexander

Grades 4-6

GA Standards: TA4.CR.1, TA4.CR.2, TA4.PR1, TA4.2, TA4.RE.1, TA4.RE2

Program Description:

An interactive program designed to provide youth with a transformative, hands-on experience, not just imagining change but feeling it. Modeled on brain-based learning and trauma-informed care, the program integrates emotional intelligence and social-emotional learning attributes.

Program at a Glance:

- Utilizes personal written monologues and collaborative storytelling for a devised theatre presentation.
- 8-week cycles, meeting once a week for 1 hour.
- Weekly 30-minute check-ins and individual responsibilities follow-up.
- Participants receive a program certificate, and a video copy of their presentation.

What is Devised Theater?

Devised theater is an ensemble-driven process, directed by Jimez Alexander, empowering youth to create and perform an original work. This includes self-reflective monologues woven together for a cohesive theatrical presentation, fostering storytelling skills based on collective and individual experiences.

Social-Emotional Learning Skills Addressed:

1. ****Self Awareness:****
 - Identifying emotions
 - Demonstrating honesty and integrity
 - Linking feelings, values, and thoughts
 - Examining prejudices and biases
 - Experiencing self-efficacy
 - Cultivating a growth mindset
 - Developing interests and purpose

2. ****Social Awareness:****
 - Taking others' perspectives
 - Recognizing strengths in others
 - Demonstrating empathy and compassion
 - Showing concern for others' feelings
 - Understanding and expressing gratitude
 - Recognizing situational demands and opportunities
 - Understanding the influences of organizations/systems on behavior

3. **Responsible Decision Making:**

- Demonstrating curiosity and open-mindedness
- Identifying solutions for personal and social problems
- Making reasoned judgments
- Anticipating and evaluating consequences
- Applying critical thinking skills inside and outside school
- Reflecting on promoting personal, family, and community well-being
- Evaluating personal, interpersonal, community, and institutional impact

4. **Self Management:**

- Managing emotions
- Identifying and using stress-management strategies
- Exhibiting self-discipline and self-motivation
- Setting personal and collective goals
- Utilizing planning and organizational skills
- Showing the courage to take initiative
- Demonstrating personal and collective agency

5. **Relationship Skills:**

- Communicating effectively
- Developing positive relationships
- Demonstrating cultural competency
- Practicing teamwork and collaborative problem-solving
- Resolving conflicts constructively
- Resisting negative social pressure
- Showing leadership in groups
- Seeking or offering support and help when needed
- Standing up for the rights of others

Executive Summary of Devised Theater's Purpose:

The devised theater process intricately weaves social-emotional learning components, allowing students to safely examine and express emotions through created characters. This method fosters empathy, self-reflection, and the evaluation of choices, forming a cohesive ensemble with individual and collective responsibilities. The structured program not only encourages personal and group goal-setting but also provides a platform for conflict resolution skill development within the collaborative journey towards a common goal.

Program Cost

- 8-week residency: \$3,500
- One time workshop (2 hours): \$400