



# Off the page!

**OFF THE PAGE** is a week long tutorial in which Emmy Award winning actor **ANTHONY ZERBE** works one on one with 10 graduate or undergraduate theatre students in the process of moving text from page to presentation.

**OFF THE PAGE:** The focus is not on the creation or development of character but rather on an approach to the written word, how to authentically inform written material and enhance its presentation. He assists students in shaping their own approach to text in a process that can be applied to their work in creating character for stage and film.

**OFF THE PAGE:** It can be also be formatted as an interdisciplinary residency that to date has included students from departments of Theatre, Film, Education, English, Foreign Language, Communications and International Studies.

**OFF THE PAGE:** At the end of the week there is a student presentation which he directs. It is held in a theatre or black box with music, lights and visuals unique to that particular residency.

( FACULTY AND STUDENTS RESPOND )

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Your approach complemented beautifully the instruction that our faculty provide. Students were awed by you and your teaching yet felt the depth of your passion for the art and sincerity in helping them achieve a performance that would make you both proud — and they wanted to make you proud.

**Dean June K. Phillips**, Weber State University

Anthony was able to show me so much I had inside myself and how I could go there when I needed to.

**Jesse Toth**, student

First when I met him one by one, I was kind of scared by his strong atmosphere. But by the end of session, I felt like he is my old friend. For me, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" was speech. But he did not approach it that way. Anthony said "talk from your heart. Talk your dream for Japan.

**Takaaki Otawa**, student from Japan

I hope to use this stuff wherever I go. Not putting on this role but bringing yourself to the role It makes it all that much more rich.

**Tim Heck**, student

"When I was with John Houseman's company, he taught us that in the Middle Ages it was the monks who kept the alphabet alive. Similarly certain actors and some theatres keep our language alive in the literary sense. Anthony is one of these actors."

**Jennifer MacCary Rincon**, The National Conservatory, Denver

Anthony devoted himself to assuring that each student who worked with him grew in his or her ability to savor and communicate language. This charming, charismatic actor provided a model of what a residency out to be.

**Dean Bob Everding**, Central Arkansas State University

I learned from him to find the character inside my being and more importantly the courage to show myself on stage. I had to work to get past the idea of acting.

**Jeremy Bon**, student

I leaned to internalize the piece and really make it mine.

**Chris Molony**, student

The benefit of having an actor of the experience and stature of Anthony Zerbe working one-on-one with students cannot be measured. The students grew more than I ever would have thought.

**Tom Empey**, theatre chair, Casper College

I hope that Anthony can continue these valuable residency activities because he has a special gift in being able to come into a place and quickly become part of it.

**Loree MacNeill**, Director of Cultural Programs, Chadron State University

It took Anthony's experienced insight to get me to let go of "how things must look" which allowed me much more potential.

**Kirby Anderson**, student

I signed on to enhance my presentation skills and use of voice, but I learned perhaps more about who I am, what's going on inside my head.

**Regan Walton**, student

Anthony's gifted interpretation of the poems of E.E. Cummings was amazing — as his stage performances always are. His connection with the students during the residency resulted in an intense and powerful presentation of their work in the culminating performance. It was satisfying to watch the change that occurred over the week in each student artist and the obvious emotional investment by them and Anthony was apparent to all.

**Charles Henry Bethea**, Executive Director, Lied Center

We had over 800 people see Anthony perform over two nights, and they loved his show. The residency that started the next day was better than we could have expected. I don't think these students will ever forget this experience. And while 160 people came to see their presentation, I know that in talking with them the process was more important than the product. He took time to know them personally.

**Derek Emerson**, Arts Coordinator, Hope College

I learned the goal of an actor is not to "entertain" so much as to share a story. It is the story telling that makes the character more real for both the actor and listener. If I would have heard this two months ago I would have replied with a resounding, "Duh," but Anthony made it real and taught me how to make it real to myself.

**Isaac Camargo**, student

The OFF THE PAGE residency with Anthony Zerbe was an incredible opportunity and experience for our students. Anthony worked individually and collectively with the students throughout the week, not only with the material for the OFF THE PAGE, but also in life lessons for the students on working professionally. His energy, dedication and commitment to the students and their process was outstanding and everyone involved wished the residency with Anthony could continue throughout the year.

**David Rowell**, Head of MFA Theatre Management, The School of Theatre at Florida State University

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# Anthony Zerbe

## biography

**ANTHONY ZERBE** is recognized as one of the country's most versatile actors with extensive credits in film, television and theatre. He appeared in the films *The Matrix Reloaded* and *Matrix Revolutions* (with Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne) and recently completed the independent film *In Veritas*. His other films include: *Star Trek Insurrection*, *True Crime*, *The Touch*, *License to Kill*, *See No Evil – Hear No Evil*, *Mismatch*, *The Dead Zone*, *Farewell My Lovely*, *The First Deadly Sin* and *Who Will Stop the Rain*. His series of classic releases include: *The Turning Point*, *Farewell, My Lovely*, *Rooster Cogburn*, *The Laughing Policeman*, *The Parallax View*, *Papillon*, *The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean*, *The Omega Man*, *The Liberation of L.B. Jones*, *They Call Me MISTER Tibbs!*, *The Molly Maguires*, *Will Penny* and *Cool Hand Luke*. He starred as Teaspoon Hunter in the television series "The Young Riders" and received an Emmy Award for his performance as Lt. K.C. Trench in the popular series "Harry-O" (with David Janssen). He has been a guest star in numerous television series (from vintage classics such as *Gunsmoke*, "Mission Impossible," "Bonanza," "Columbo," and "Murder She Wrote" to "Frasier" and "Judging Amy." He appeared in episodes of "Total Recall," a series for Showtime. His mini-series and movie-of-the-week appearances include: "Asteroid," "On Seventh Avenue," "Treasure Island: The Adventure Begins," "Once An Eagle," "North and South Book II," "One Police Plaza," "Dream West," "Ari: The Richest Man in the World," "How the West Was Won," and "Centennial." His stage work includes appearances on and off Broadway and with leading resident theaters across the country. Broadway appearances include: *The Little Foxes*, *Terra Nova*, *Solomon's Child* and *Moon Besieged*.

For five seasons he was in residence at The Old Globe Theatre where his roles included Coriolanus, Iago, Richard III and Macbeth. He also played Iago in The Mark Taper Forum production of *Othello*, with James Earl Jones. His appearances at the Taper also included the American premieres of *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* and Brian Friel's *Crystal and Fox*. Other residencies include two years with Arena Stage in Washington, DC, a season at the Stratford Festival in Canada, and the Theatre of the Living Arts in Philadelphia. Other appearances in resident theaters include productions at The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre and the Huntington Theatre in Boston. In the latter two theaters, he played the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. For five years, he was the artistic director of REFLECTIONS: A New Plays Festival in Rochester, New York. For over 30 years he toured with the late Roscoe Lee Browne in their critically acclaimed production *Behind The Broken Words*. A tour de force of language and idea, it premiered at the Mark Taper Forum, played Off Broadway and subsequently in over 200 theatres across the country. His one man show *It's All Done With Mirrors... an avalanche of e.e. cummings* has played in 100+ venues including the Library of Congress, Harvard, New York University, Vassar and Fordham. He won critical praise for his adaptation of and performance in *Prelude to Lime Creek* taken from the prose and poetry of Joe Henry with singer Greg Barnhill at the Denver Center Theatre Company. He has also appeared with Garth Brooks in the Christmas special *Lime Creek Christmas* also adapted from the works of Joe Henry.