

Many people say teaching is like acting. On Saturday October 28, two rooms full of actors were born in a collaborative workshop between the AATG and the AATF CNY Chapters at the Black Box Theater at Fayetteville-Manlius High School.

**Teaching with Improv** presented by Dr. Lauren Esposito and Phil Gross, was not your ordinary workshop. The presenters began by creating a “judgement free zone” where everyone felt comfortable making mistakes. Mistakes were actually enjoyed by all in a carefree environment where it is okay to fumble with words, a goal we strive to achieve every day in our classes. The apprehensive, the shy, the goofy, the quick witted, the brainiac, etc. participated with a smile and a response. If you made a mistake, we all went to the center and cheered together “Hey OHHH!!!” with laughs and continued where we left off.

Activities such as **Yes and. . .**, where in pairs you agree to bring an item on a vacation and explain why, and the partner says Yes and adds another item and says why and you keep going. A second activity, **What is on your t-shirt?**, had the first person in a circle describe an image on a t-shirt (an image in their head) and the next person provides a caption, now that person paints an image and the following person provides a caption, you continue through the circle. A third activity explored was **Hey Fred Schneider, what are you doing?** This activity in a circle starts with the little chant “Hey Fred Schneider, what are you doing?” (you can change it to a name that the kids would know or one that is culturally appropriate). After the chant, the teacher points to a person and that person says what he is doing, any activity he can think of, not matter how crazy. You all do the chant again and that person points to another person in the circle. The pattern continues.

If you were not able to attend the workshop, you missed out on a positive, invigorating, thought-provoking, energizing session. Hope to see you at the next one!!!