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Teaching Playwriting to Older Adults



The EPIC Journey Continues

Over the years, Silk Road Rising has brought EPIC (Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course) to more than 80 classrooms and 2,000 students in Chicago area schools.

Earlier this year, we expanded our programming and began teaching playwriting to older adults, beginning with a residency at Brookdale Senior Living.

“I found this to be an amazing experience, opening my mind to new ideas and new people” one resident said, reflecting on her time in EPIC.



Residents at Brookdale participated in a 10-session arts residency program designed to guide participants in developing and practicing empathy while writing a personally meaningful story as a short play or monologue. Their work was then performed by professional actors for the Brookdale Community.

zone and made tremendous strides with their inner self. It was really awesome.”

When people know their voice is valued, they are more likely to lift up their voice and are more empowered to lift others up with them. Silk Road Rising is pleased to shine a light on the residents of Brookdale and excited to see the continued and expanded impact of EPIC.



As one resident from Brookdale Senior Living said, **“People should participate in EPIC even if they think they have no talent; if you are alive you have something to share!”**

On June 8 and 9, our EPIC Showcase Spring 2019 events will feature a new play from each of our EPIC residencies, including our residency at Brookdale. We can't wait to share these exciting and passionate voices with you!

Are you involved with a senior living facility? If so, please contact Tracy Strimple, our Director of Education, at 312-857-1234 x204 or tracy@silkrising.org to bring EPIC to your community. Creative aging programs benefit the whole self. They improve physical health, increase social interaction, decrease loneliness, and give participants a sense of accomplishment. To share the joy of storytelling with loved ones, contact Tracy today.

Come to EPIC Showcase this June!



June 8 & 9 at 2pm
EPIC Showcase Spring 2019
A Collection of Staged Readings
Written by EPIC Students
Directed by Corey Pond with Tracy Strimple

A compilation of short plays written by two generations of creative community members. What are the issues that young people and retired adults are thinking about? Come find out how storytelling connects us across the generations. The readings are performed by actors from the Silk Road Rising community.

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