

# Melinda Strobel



## Mission Statement:

*I believe in providing students with a safe learning environment to encourage them to creatively explore the world around them with their minds, bodies and imaginations. By combining acting skills with your choice of material, students will develop an enthusiastic appreciation of the humanities through the medium of performance art. Simultaneously, they will learn life skills like risk-taking, working together to solve problems, thinking “on their feet,” etc.*

## Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

## Lives In:

Tigard, OR

## Homestay:

Required, non-smoking preferred

## Humanities Alive: Energizing Our Work Through Theatre

Melinda will cover basic acting techniques such as vocal projection, creating a character, eye contact, and speaking in front of others. Students will also learn how to move their bodies through space, how to physically work together in small spaces, how to work together to solve problems, and how to make risky choices. You pick the material that works best for you, your students and your curriculum. For example: Literature - Using a novel, fairy tales, or other material, we can “workshop” or script a play or scenes for your students to explore or perform. Putting a story “on its feet” increases students ability to understand narrative line and remember content. Other themes might include History, Poetry, Social Interaction, Play Production, Mime, Improvisation or Games.

## Teacher Workshops

### Breathing Life Into The Past: Energizing History Through Theatre

If historical material is used in this interdisciplinary design, the teacher workshop/in-service will suggest possible ways to utilize this design in the classroom and help students foster disciplines of research, critical thought, history, composition, and theatre performance.

## Facility & Supplies

A large, open space such as a gym, stage or multipurpose room that is free of other school activities and distracting noises. Photocopies, if scripts are used. Access to library research materials for history, literature, poetry, etc.

## About the Artist...

Melinda Strobel has been a professional actor for over 20 years. Her training began at Willamette University and continued at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Her stage work in both Atlanta and Portland has included a range of work from Shakespeare to Pinter. In 1991, she began extensive research into Susan B. Anthony’s life, which culminated in a one-woman show. This production continues to garner grants from around the U.S., and she has received many accolades for her unique skills. A teaching artist for 15 years, Melinda’s favorite projects have included production of a Shakespeare play and several Renaissance Faires at middle schools, involving historical research, performance, dancing, singing and stage combat.

