Call for Proposals! 2022 VASTA@ATHE: Call for Proposals!!

Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) Focus Group invites proposals for in-person panels for next year’s conference to be held in Detroit, MI. Please note, however, that the format may need to change to virtual or hybrid, depending on possible future circumstances. This year’s conference theme is “Rehearsing the Possible: Practicing Reparative Creativity.” Following adrienne maree brown’s vision of emergent strategy, or “[..] ways for humans to practice being in right relationship to our home and each other, to practice complexity and grow a compelling future … [to] change in ways that grow our capacity to embody the just and liberated worlds we long for,” we ask: How can our collective live presence in Detroit offer emergent strategies that shape sustainable change in our field, our host city, and our communities? As theatre artists and scholars, we recognize that rehearsals, the acts of constant creation, can be more significant than the product and, indeed, that the work is ongoing and incomplete. Can we rehearse for the possible in all aspects of our research, pedagogy, and practice for the better present and future we want to embody, or as Tina Campt frames futurity, “live the future now”?

Individual Paper/Presentation Abstract Submissions Due to Focus Groups: November 1, 2021

VASTA Focus Group Full Panel Proposals Due to the VASTA Conference Planner: November 15, 2021

VASTA Focus Group Full Panel Proposals Due to ATHE: December 1, 2021

ATHE 2022 – Detroit, Michigan – Rehearsing the Possible: Practicing Reparative Creativity (July 28th-31st)

Building upon the work of the 2021 conference of RE: (claim, frame, pair, write, etc.), 2022 invites ATHE to deepen engagements with questions that Detroit urges us to address. How will we abolish institutional, embedded racist structures? As we seek to reimagine, rebuild, and rise up, what are some new arrangements of the possible that we might pursue? In Worldmaking, Dorinne Kondo asserts that "reparative creativity offers possibilities to work through effects of affective and structural violence," reminding us that the "reparative is a critical, political, and artistic practice."

Some questions related to the overall conference theme to consider addressing include:
• What are some of the ways theater and performance can enable us to imagine and embody new possibilities?
• How do theater and performance rearrange our relationship to the impossible?
• How might the theatre as a space of imaginative possibility work to rethink the world in practical and impractical ways?
• How might rehearsing the possible ask us to rethink potential theatre careers for our students, opening up possibilities for how students might use theatre differently to change the world?
• How might ATHE and/or theatre makers and organizations contribute to efforts to make reparations to historically enslaved or oppressed communities? In what ways can theatre and performance work to help equalize the economic and education gaps that exist in places like Detroit?
• What are the best reparative practices regarding hiring, recruiting, mentoring and developing of Global Majority coaches, teachers?
• Can the pandemic teach us something about finding culturally competent coaches/teachers to truly expand and diversify the field?
• How can the EDI questions raised during this time reframe future work?
• How can Voice and Speech Trainers best support their Global Majority students/clients/colleagues?
• How has the Black Lives Matter movement been reflected in coaching/teaching/hiring practices in North American theatre?
• How have reparative actions on equity and diversity affected season selection?
• Are we liberating or limiting student potential in our training methods? What has seemed impossible before that we should now reach for.
• How do we include intimacy training for both instructors and students in our programs?
• How does intimacy training interact with voice training?
• How do we mentor students to become resilient theatre professionals?

Please send individual paper/panel submissions no later than November 1, 2021, and planned full panel submissions no later than November 15, 2021 to VASTA@ ATHE Conference Planner, Matthew Rossoff (mrossoff@vasta.org), Assistant Conference Planner, Matthew Greenberg (mgreenberg@vasta.org) and VASTA Focus Group Rep, Amy Chaffee, (amychaffee@yahoo.com)