

arts
education
njpac



eric

booth

the david g. berger
master class series

about eric booth

Eric Booth is widely regarded as one of America's most creative and effective teachers of the arts. As an actor, Eric Booth performed in many plays on Broadway, off-Broadway and around the country, playing over 23 Shakespearean roles (Hamlet three times), and winning "Best Actor" awards on both coasts. He has performed many times on television, directed five productions and produced two plays in New York. After 20 years as an actor in dozens of Broadway, off-Broadway and regional productions, he began his career as an arts educator.

He started Alert Publishing, which became the largest company of its kind in the U.S. analyzing research on trends in American lifestyles and publishing newsletters, books and reports. He became a major figure in trend analysis, frequently quoted by the major media with interviews often appearing in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and elsewhere. He appeared as an expert on NBC News, *Sunday Today* and CNN.



He was given a syndicated radio program on the Business Radio Network, and was a frequent speaker to business groups. He sold his company in 1991 in order to work full-time on passion projects in arts learning.

As an author, he has had eight books published. His newest book, *Making Change: Teaching Artists and Their Role in Shaping a Better World* (2023), is the first book that introduces teaching artistry to those who don't know what it is and to those who do but could do much more. *Tending the Perennials: The Art and Spirit of a Personal Religion* (2019) focuses on the ways art and spirituality overlap in everyday life and is a companion book to *The Everyday Work of Art*, which was a brief bestseller, won three awards and was a Book of the Month Club selection. He has written three dozen magazine articles, was the Founding Editor of the *Teaching Artist Journal*, and his book *The Music Teaching Artist's Bible* was published by Oxford University Press in 2009. *Playing for their Lives*, co-authored with Tricia Tunstall in 2016, sprang from studying El Sistema-inspired programs in 25 countries around the world. He has placed articles in the *Harvard Education Review*, in the special creativity focus issue of educational leadership, in *Symphony* magazine, as well as the creativity chapter in the *Routledge International Handbook on Arts Education* in 2015.

In arts learning, he taught at Juilliard (12 years), Stanford University, NYU, Tanglewood and Lincoln Center Education for 40 years, where he is now a co-founder of the Teaching Artist Development Labs, and at the Kennedy Center for 20 years. He is the first person to receive an honorary doctoral degree for teaching artistry from the New England Conservatory in 2012. He received the Americans for the Arts 2015 Arts Education Leadership Award, the most prestigious award in U.S. arts education — the first teaching artist ever to receive this award. He was named in the "Top 50 Most Powerful and Influential Leaders in the Nonprofit Arts (USA) for 2015" — the only teaching artist, and the only freelancer, on the list. This only skims the surface of all the accolades that set Eric Booth apart as a leader. He has an extensive list of advisory boards, committees and movements under his belt from the Leonard Bernstein Teaching Center, UNESCO, Music National Service, MusicianCorps, ArtistYear, Academy for Impact in Music, The World Ensemble, Music for Social Change International Teaching Artist Conference, Community Engagement Labs and ITAC IMPACT.

accolades

- Founder and co-designer of the world's first and second International Teaching Artist Conferences (2012 and 2014)
- Recipient of the first honorary doctorate for teaching artistry and Commencement Address Speaker for New England Conservatory (2012)
- Co-founder of the Community Engagement Lab in Vermont (2012)
- Founder/President of Alert Publishing, Inc. (1984)
- Founder of The International Teaching Artist Collaborative — the first global network of artists who work in communities and schools (2019)
- Founder of ITAC IMPACT: Climate — the first global network of teaching artists committed to making a difference in the climate crisis

Eric Booth has spent decades as both an educator and a creative. He finds the two disciplines are more intertwined than most people first believe. While exploring the connection between education and the arts, Booth found a mutually beneficial synergy — that one's success as an educator correlates to a newfound success as an artist and vice versa. Using this relationship as a foundation, Booth conducts endless research, writes countless articles and makes an indescribable impact, building an industry of teaching artists.

Teaching artistry is less of a profession and more of a way of thinking and being. It is a philosophy for people who are active artists and wish to activate the artistry in those around them. Teaching artists inspire their community to build, experience, acknowledge and value their personal artistry, even if it is not at the skill level of a professional or full-time creative. Booth also acknowledges the benefits of this work past developing artistry; teaching artists are also tasked with facilitating self-actualization and self-discovery, building communities, spearheading activism, integrating arts into what is traditionally perceived as non-arts spaces and growing people's capacity to be moved by artistic works. His newest published work, *Marking Change: Teaching Artists and their Role in Shaping a Better World*, is filled with data, personal anecdotes and metaphors that emphasize the importance of integrating creative philosophy in all spaces, even ones that are not traditionally thought of as artistic environments. Booth believes this foundational change in our world's approach to art and expression will lead to increased personal fulfillment, stronger interpersonal relationships and increased quality of life for all.



Inherent in the artistic experience is the capacity to expand our sense of the way the world is or might be — that's where the teaching artist comes in."

— Eric Booth

seed questions to consider

From Booth's essay *Getting the Right Metaphor for the Field of Teaching Artistry*, unpack this quote and the impact of teaching artistry on a community:

"Teaching artistry is an incubator for innovation in other great industries, is nourishment for those who stop to feed, is abundant because of its hybridity. Yet it's overlooked by those who depend on it and drive by it."

1. How does visibility and funding impact the potential of the teaching artist profession?
2. Which element of the teaching artist practice below is most intriguing to you?



teaching artist elements

Personal Development

To develop important personal or social capacities, such as collaboration, confidence, empathy, discipline or life satisfaction

Community

To enhance the life of communities by bringing people together to collaborate on artistic project and boost kindness, pride and care in the community

Activism

To impact political or social movements and facilitate spaces where art can be used as a tool to communicate discomfort, hopes, dreams or dissatisfaction with the state of the world

Partnership with Non-Arts

To achieve goals important to non-arts institutions by encouraging creativity and collaboration in all spaces regardless of the project at-hand

Development of Art Skills

To deepen the development of artmaking skills and make the mechanical and technical facets of art accessible to all

Arts Integration

To catalyze the learning of non-arts subjects through the use of dance, music, creative workshops that make learning enjoyable, personal and memorable

Work of Art

To enrich encounters with artworks and courage people to make personal, deep or meaningful connections with the art they encounter

resources

Websites

About Eric Booth
ericbooth.net/about

Eric Booth - Teaching Artist Advocate and Author
itac-collaborative.com/our-people/eric-booth

Eric Booth Bio
pewcenterarts.org/contributor/eric-booth

The History of Teaching Artistry in the U.S.:
Where it comes from, where it is, and where it's heading
ericbooth.net/the-history-of-teaching-artistry-revised-2020

Teaching Artists And Their Role In Shaping
A Better World With Eric Booth
creative-generation.org/podcast-episode/s3-ep9-making-change-teaching-artists-and-their-role-in-shaping-a-better-world-with-eric-booth

Videos

Eric Booth: What is a Teaching Artist?
youtube.com/watch?v=wv-DdIACo7E

Eric Booth: The Law of 80% —
What You Teach is Who You Are
youtube.com/watch?v=L15Jvs-G4Xw

Eric Booth: What Distinguishes Art and Entertainment
youtube.com/watch?v=3dlyrn_wVzA&t=1s

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the arts in your school

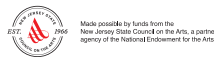
In-School Residencies: NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development: Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our education sales team at artseducation@njpac.org. Or visit njpac.org/education

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study the arts at njpac

Saturday Programs: NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs: Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in one of seven programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.