

# JOANNE BROKAW

author \* performer \* teaching artist

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## 2024 Workshop Descriptions

**BIO:** Author, performer, and teaching artist Joanne Brokaw has helped countless people discover their inner artist by encouraging them to take creative risks, celebrate mistakes, and focus on the process, not the product. With a contagious passion for creativity and a gift for inspiring others, she encourages people of all ages to discover the joy of self-expression. You can learn more at [www.joannebrokaw.com](http://www.joannebrokaw.com).

### **Improv Workshops/Camp/After School Play (can be customized for any age group)**

Creative play that builds confidence, hones social skills, and fosters teamwork in a supportive, can't fail environment. The focus is on being present in the moment and embracing mistakes as opportunities to say "Yes, And..." to new ideas.

Available for youth as a 4 to 6 week after school drop in program; five day camp; or single session workshop; or for adults a series of classes; single session workshops; or custom program for your organization. No improv or performing experience is necessary. Workshops can be customized for any age group.

I'm currently running after school improv at the East Rochester Library on Wednesday afternoons, and have taught improv or improv-based workshops at dozens of venues, including St. David's Writers' Conference; National Society of Newspaper Columnists; various branches of the Monroe Community Library System; Focus Theater; Barnes & Noble, Pittsford; Writers & Books; East High School; Our Lady of Mercy High School; Honeoye Falls Lima High School; Gates Chili High School; and local girl scout troops

### **Speed Date Your Creativity (event or workshop)**

Whether you want to encourage personal reflection or group interaction, this flexible format can be adapted to meet your group/event needs to provide a time of fun and creative exploration.

How it works: Tables/stations are set up around the space. Each station has something participants need to interact with - a writing prompt, a game, something they start and leave for the next person to continue. They get 5 to 10 minutes at each station before bell rings and they need to move to the next in a speed dating-style format. Depending on the goals for your event, an opportunity to talk about the exercises will enhance team building or offer a time for participants to mingle and connect.

This event works best for older teens and adults.

### **Black Out Poetry Workshop (a great eclipse activity!)**

Blurb: Explore the technique of Black Out Poetry as we take pages from magazines and books, use markers to black out large blocks of text, and illuminate a unique poem or piece of writing that's revealed from the darkness.

For the eclipse tie in: we can add an arts & crafts element by pasting our poems on bright paper to create the "ring of fire" effect. This can be a simple project for kids of all ages, or a more in depth exploration of words, shadows, and the beauty we can find right in front of us.

## **Writing In The Wild**

Join author and teaching artist for a creative walk as we explore the environment and consider reflective prompts for writing, sketching, and journaling. No art or writing experience necessary.

These walks can be inside or outside - a neighborhood, park, community garden, inside a building, etc. We'll gather at a starting point and then spend about an hour exploring our space, with stops for prompts specific to the area that allow participants to reflect/journal. We'll end by gathering together for a time of sharing. The length of the route isn't long; the prompts aren't difficult; everything is customized for your specific group.

## **Tell Yourself A New Story workshop (a self-reflective workshop for adults)**

Blurb:

"I'm not a writer."

"I never have any good ideas."

"No one cares what I have to say."

"I can't because I don't know how."

These are just some of the beliefs that hinder our creative journey. But are they really true? In this session, we'll explore self-limiting statements, really listen to our inner critic, and make new choices about the stories we tell ourselves. We'll be using reflective prompts, so come prepared to write; sharing is optional.

How it works: This workshop takes participants through a series of increasingly self-reflective prompts designed to get them thinking about self-limiting statements from a new perspective. We start with easy, playful prompts to warm up and work our way towards more introspective prompts. People are encouraged to share/not share at their own comfort level. Everyone leaves with a final prompt, a worksheet, and the encouragement to spend some time on their own practicing ways to rewrite the stories they tell themselves. I've led this workshop numerous times, online and in person, most recently for the St. Davids Writers Conference and the National Society of Newspaper Columnists virtual conference. This event works best for older teens and adults.

## **Collaborative Story Writing Workshop**

Blurb: What's more fun than creating alone? Creating with everyone! Let go of expectations in a collaborative environment where everyone contributes to the creative journey and no one knows where they're going - until they get there. At the end of this interactive workshop, the group will have collectively generated multiple story drafts. Everyone is then invited to take the ideas and run wild with them.

How it works: Everyone starts with a piece of paper on which they respond to a prompt. The papers are passed to others in the room, who add their own response to the provided prompts, until time/rotations are up. Then we read the stories aloud. We'll talk about how, without trying, common themes and words arose and how what we thought we had put into motion went in completely new and wonderful ways. Participants will then use the stories as starting points for their own writing. Or, for a longer workshop that takes the concept a step further, participants get into groups, pick one of the stories, and create a skit, some music, or a puppet show they then present to the group. This is a great workshop for people of all ages looking for ways to recharge their creativity.

**Writing, art, and improv workshops can also be customized for your group, organization, or event.**

**Collaborative Creative Events - see separate sheet**