



Teacher Professional Development Basic Conflict in the Classroom with Spoleto Festival USA's Opera *Vanessa*

Elementary and Middle School Teachers

3 Recertification Hours (*Charleston & Dorchester County Educators*)

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Teachers will participate in engaging activities that will explore the importance of emotional awareness and social skills in building healthy relationships and managing classrooms, and also discuss the significance of effective communication and active listening in resolving conflicts and misunderstandings.

Teachers will draw inspiration from the themes of the opera *Vanessa*, which highlights the consequences of miscommunication and the importance of forgiveness and understanding.

They will explore CASEL social emotional learning objectives, which include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making, and how these objectives can be integrated into daily classroom activities and routines to promote a safe and supportive learning environment.

Throughout the workshop, teachers will engage various tools and discuss conflict resolution strategies, such as using "I" statements, active listening, and finding common ground while learning how to help students understand and express their emotions, and how to facilitate productive discussions to address conflicts and misunderstandings.

ABOUT CATHERINE WILHOIT

Catherine is the creator and founder of Addressing Basic Conflict. Catherine earned her bachelor's degree in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing from the College of Charleston, which she uses to create original content for Addressing Basic Conflict. Catherine received her law degree from the Charleston School of Law, where she has taught courses in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution. In addition to being an active member of the South Carolina Bar and practicing law, Catherine is certified in social-emotional and character development instruction through the Rutgers University Department of Psychology. Catherine is also a qualified family and civil mediator, a staff and youth mediation trainer, a certified juvenile arbitrator, and Past-Chair of the Dispute Resolution Section of the South Carolina Bar. Valuing community involvement and engagement, she also serves on the Board of the Mediation and Meeting Center of Charleston, acts as a member of the Charleston Inn of Court, and is a frequent presenter on conflict resolution education addressing both legal and educational communities.

Through Addressing Basic Conflict, Catherine's work and trainings have touched the lives of thousands of young people, parents, and educators locally and globally, extending as far as Kenya. Catherine is particularly proud to have worked with numerous community organizations interested in the wellbeing of children, including WINGS for Kids, Engaging Creative Minds, the LENS Foundation, The Charleston Spoleto Festival, Charleston County School District, and The Charleston Police Department. She loves seeing the far-reaching benefits of her work in conflict resolution education. Catherine is the mother of Miller, her young son, and wife to her wonderful husband, Tyler.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 27

5:30 - 9:45pm

Gaillard Center

Teaching Basic Conflict in the Classroom

5:30-6:30pm

A mini-professional development workshop with Catherine Wilhoit, founder and educator for Addressing Basic Conflict. Cocktails and Hors-d'oeuvres included.

Spoleto Festival USA Opera, *Vanessa*

7:00-9:45pm

Vanessa in the Martha & John M. Rivers Performance Hall at the Charleston Gaillard Center.

ABOUT VANESSA

Rising operatic superstar Nicole Heaston takes on the titular role in this powerful existential drama, set to one of the most beautiful scores of the 20th century. Tucked away in a countryside mansion, *Vanessa* has waited 20 years for the return of her lover, Anatol. When his deadringer son arrives instead, a love triangle ensues between the conniving young suitor, *Vanessa*, and her impressionable niece.

American composer Samuel Barber won the Pulitzer Prize for *Vanessa's* sweepingly lyrical score, which explores the full depths of the characters' psyches in what librettist and Spoleto's founder Gian Carlo Menotti characterized as a universal human dilemma.

Sung in English with English supertitles.

