



# Teacher Professional Development Self-Care Through Theater with Spoleto Festival USA's *The Book of Life*

Elementary and Middle School Teachers

**3 Recertification Hours** (*Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester County Educators*)

### ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

*Masks and Characters* focuses on the inner educator and their specific needs, while also acknowledging the space, discipline and endurance needed to teach. Enjoy playing theatre games and participating in mask work and character development as we learn more about you, the educator behind the "mask." Develop skills to value your personal well-being and goals, as well as how these intersect with classroom objectives. Develop understanding that these skills will help you better educate and nurture your students. Additionally, all games and exercises are transferable to your classroom, as you lead your students on their path of self-discovery.

### ABOUT GENESE GEE-SCHMIDTKE (SHE/HERS)

is an educator and performing arts professional at the College of Charleston. A teacher of the fine and performing arts for over 11 years to students ranging from kindergarten to adult collegiate learners, she is eager to step into any classroom. Genese has founded a fine and performing arts program called OurCornerArts. Through this program students discover and actively display their positive creativity through productions and workshops for change and community awareness. When not at CofC, she is a company administrator for Annex Dance Company, a modern professional dance company in Charleston, SC. In all aspects of the performing arts, Genese hopes her students, patrons, and colleagues see her passion for the stage and discover their own.

### ABOUT THE SHOW *THE BOOK OF LIFE*

Based on creator Odile Gakire Katese's collected letters from survivors and perpetrators of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, *The Book of Life* leads audiences on a remarkable journey of pain, grief, acceptance, and rebirth. In this deeply moving performance about finding hope in the aftermath of tragedy, the playwright and cultural entrepreneur's story reverberates through spoken word and the rhythms of Ingoma Nshya, Rwanda's first-ever female drumming ensemble founded by Katese. In a world racked with hatred and struggle, *The Book of Life* celebrates healing after trauma and the resilience of the human spirit.

*Co-created, written, and performed by Odile Gakire Katese*

*Co-created and directed by Ross Manson*

*Projection design by Sean Frey*

*Composed by Mutangana Moise*

*Featuring music performed by Ingoma Nshya, The Women Drummers of Rwanda*

## SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 1  
6:00 - 8:45pm  
Spoleto Headquarters  
and Festival Hall

### Self-Care Through Theater Inside and Outside the Classroom

6:00-7:00pm  
Spoleto Building  
14 George St.

A mini-teacher professional development workshop, *Masks and Characters* with theater educator, Genese Gee-Schmidtke.

### Spoleto Festival USA's performance of *The Book of Life*

7:30-8:45pm  
Festival Hall  
56 Beaufain St.

