Thirty Years of Theatre Work and Research

James Slowiak

The change of the Master of Arts in Theatre Arts Program to a summer program led to ten summers of intensive and creative work. Many of the graduates of that program are now the drama teachers in Northeast Ohio high schools and middle schools. Several collaborations with New World Performance Lab added an extra layer of discipline and physicality to the students’ work. Together we devised our own Winesburg, Ohio, which was invited to the regional Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival.

When the Theatre Program was threatened with closure, the students never stopped working. A double cast version of *As You Like It* (one male, one female), a beautifully harmonic *Hedda Gabler*, and a savage *Blood Wedding* brought us to the place where we could begin to rebuild and start a new era of theatre at The University of Akron.