



August 3, 2009

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For Immediate Release

UNM-LA welcomes actress and educator Billie Teal-Thorson to the faculty

Who can benefit from an acting class? Everyone, according to UNM-LA's new theatre professor, Billie Teal-Thorson. "Acting makes people more observant and builds confidence. It helps develop the imagination and teaches the student to work in a group," Teal-Thorson said.

Another good reason to learn acting is that, "it's fun," she said. "Adults forget how to play, but we need to be playful throughout our lives."

Teal-Thorson will teach Acting Foundations II (THEA 121) this fall. Students will learn the tools of acting and end the year with a production. Acting experience is helpful, but not required for the class. The class will meet Tuesdays from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. beginning Aug. 25. The course may be taken for 3 credits, or on a credit/no credit basis for personal enrichment.

Teal-Thorson promises that there will be plenty of play in her class. Of course there will be work too. "Students need to be dedicated," said Teal-Thorson. "Being there is the most important element of success. Collaboration and participation are key."

The class will include readings in various styles of acting. "The modern actor uses a combination of several different styles," said Teal-Thorson. "If you know different styles, you can use them to build a character."

Students will also be instructed in voice and diction as well as in movement. Tools will be added as the students progress.

Teal-Thorson has had a long career as an actress and educator. She recently taught drama at Los Alamos Middle School. She holds a Masters in Communication with a focus on acting and directing from Fort Hays State University. Teal-Thorson was a professor of public speaking and theatre at Dodge City Community college from 2000 to 2003. Prior to that, she taught at Garden City Community College and Fort Hays State University. She has directed students in many types of productions.

Teal-Thorson has acted in productions ranging from one-woman shows to huge ensemble casts. Her range includes film and musical productions as well as voice acting. She began her career in her 20s and has been on the stage since then. The staff and faculty of UNM-LA are pleased to welcome this accomplished professional to the campus.

Teal -Thorson is not the only member of her family on the UNM-LA faculty. Her husband, Steve Thorson, also teaches at the campus. His course, Theatre Appreciation (THEA 122) will introduce students to the world of the stage this fall. This class meets Tuesdays from 6:15-8:45 p.m. beginning Aug. 25.

To register, or to learn more about UNM-LA's theatre and speech offerings, visit the UNM-LA website at www.la.unm.edu . For help with registration, call 662-0332. UNM-LA classes begin August 24 for the fall semester. See a full list of classes on the website.