

Piti Theatre Company
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Valley Playwright Mentoring: Seeking Teaching Staff for a New Teen Theatre Troupe in Ware starting in January, 2026

More about the program @ ptco.org/vpm

Piti Theatre Company, an award-winning touring theatre troupe based in Charlemont, MA is expanding our afterschool teen theatre program, Valley Playwright Mentoring (VPM), to Ware! VPM is currently offered in Greenfield and Holyoke. The program will run on Thursdays from 6 - 8 pm at Workshop13, 13 Church Street and begin on Thursday, January 15th with an end date at the end of May / early June. If you are interested, please email a resume and/or direct any questions to VPM program director Jonathan Mirin: jonathan@ptco.org / 508-439-2069

ARTISTIC MENTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

The Artistic Mentor is a part-time hourly position that mentors students once a week, mid-January to May, 2026, with additional hours for tech week and the performance.

The Artistic Mentor is the project leader who guides the group of teens through its emotional journey while simultaneously steering the storytelling and improvisations toward a well-structured coherent script and performance. There is a curriculum which will guide the rehearsal process and VPM's Program Director will also be part of the rehearsal process.

Reports to: VPM Program Director

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Background in theatre education with a firm understanding of the fundamentals of devising, directing, playwriting, and dramaturgy.
- Firm understanding of best practices in facilitating a brave and welcoming space for participants in order for them to successfully navigate the process of devising an original play based on their experiences.
- Demonstrates best practices in terms of positive youth development, and trauma informed leadership.
- Must be an expert facilitator able to navigate challenging topics, including triggering disclosures from participants.
- Ability to lead a group through a process of:
 - 1) icebreakers and team building
 - 2) improvisation
 - 3) devised theatre (based on personal stories)
 - 4) to rehearsal and performance
- Ability to lead a team, working collaboratively and communicating regularly with peer mentors, a playwright, a mental health counselor, and the Director of VPM
- Enthusiasm for youth development, devising process, and conflict resolution.
- Experience and or training as a playwright or dramaturg
- A desire to help facilitate the stories of young people

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collaborate with the director of VPM
- Record and transcribe monologues and scenes
- Escalate and report participants' issues that require a referral or outside support
- Send weekly Reports to the Director of VPM identifying the group's emotional needs, creative strides, lesson plans, and possible material for the group's play.
- Attend monthly staff meetings, technical rehearsals, and public performances.
- Lead the group through a devised theatre process based on the students' personal experiences once a week as scheduled.
- Facilitate issue-based discussions
- Collaborate with the program playwright and the participants to establish themes, links, and transitions and to strengthen the monologues, scenes, and dramatic structure of the entire script
- Artistic mentors are mandated reporters who need to assess when and how to advocate for students at what level in consultation with the program director and clinical consultants.
- Serves as a role model for students and staff: stays positive, listens, mediates conflict, and encourages healthy choices
- Directs the final play

Peer Mentor Job Description

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The Peer Mentor is a part-time hourly position that mentors students once a week, mid - January - May, 2026, with additional hours for tech week and the performance. Peer mentors work to support the creation and performance of an original play with their group of teen participants.

Reports to: Artistic Mentor

Peer Mentor Responsibilities:

- Build healthy mentoring relationships with participants and act as a role model for students through active participation in all class activities
- Perform with the students in the final production & lead the post-performance talk-backs
- Attend all pieces of training, meetings, sessions, rehearsals, and performances.
- Assist the Artistic Mentors with the facilitation of weekly VPM sessions by working with small groups, mentoring students one-on-one, and/or leading warm-ups and activities as assigned
- Assist in the assessment and reporting of the progress of VPM students, both artistically and personally
- Assist the students to set-up and break down the space before and after each session
- Assist the artistic mentor by modeling improvisational work, activities, and theatre exercises.

Qualifications:

- Some experience with acting, improvisation, and/or devising
- Strong communication skills
- Strong interest in youth development, arts education, or youth mentorship
- Applicants should be at least 18 years old, with a minimum high school diploma or equivalent.