

# MARVIN KAPLAN'S TW LAB PROGRAM - WHAT WE DO AT THE TW LAB:

Provide a safe place to share any problems, doubts, fears, blocks, or questions about the craft of acting—issues that may interfere with your joy in the work.

Learn from each other and ask that there be no judgment of each other. (I, Laura James, instructor, will perhaps suggest alternative choices that may be more specific).

## **THERE IS NO GOD OR NO RIGHT OR WRONG IN THE CRAFT OF ACTING.**

We will attempt to discover what's effective in each of you and expand on that.

There is only one cardinal rule: **NO VIOLENCE** of any kind. To you or another fellow actor. **NO MATTER WHAT.**

The one requirement to be part of this class is that you remain passionate and committed to the work.

We will possibly touch areas where you may be uncomfortable. You always have the right to refuse any exercise. - But I ask that you stop, breathe, and reconsider.

Unless there is anything life-threatening, we're here to challenge ourselves and continue to hone the instrument so that it is more readily available.

We will include a focus on scripted material, monologues, and scene work so that you become more alive, aware, and dimensional. The class is geared toward theatre, but since the theatre is the Mother of acting disciplines, TV and film techniques are more readily adaptable to the trained actor.

**Note:** This class challenges you from where you are, whether it be beginning or if you've had many years of training and experience. Growth is a necessary ingredient in art at every stage of our lives.

## **Laura James (Moderator/Instructor)**

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### ACTOR /TEACHER/DIRECTOR

Training and experience over 35 years. Includes AADA, Shakespeare & Co, Commedia dell'arte, Grotowski, Actors Studio, etc., etc. TV, Film, Theatre, and Cabaret (including Europe, Hong Kong, and Africa)

The program is named after the late member Marvin Wilbur Kaplan (January 24, 1927 – August 25, 2016). He was an American actor, playwright, and screenwriter who was best known as Henry Beesmeyer in *Alice* (1978–1985). Other roles: a court reporter in *Adam's Rib* (1949) and a small role in the 1963 film *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*, where he played a gas station attendant alongside Arnold Stang, with whom he provided voices for the *Top Cat* cartoon series. Kaplan gained early stage experience at a Los Angeles theater, working as a stage manager on a production of "Rain".[2] Kaplan was a long-time loyal member of Theatre West right up until he passed. And was very dedicated to financially helping both young artists just starting out as well as older, seasoned ones who were struggling financially. He often gave to the Associate's Program (now TW LAB) over the years. His foundation, Kaplan-Loring, continues to support TW LAB and other programs in the company.