

# Training ESL Teachers Using Theatre

**The Issue:** For many years, the American English Institute (AEI) and the Linguistics Department have collaborated to provide the Practicum in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages class experience in a real as a Second Language classroom. Through this collaboration, AEI mentor teachers noted that practicum students were in need of several essential teaching skills.



This program seeks to imbue students with the **confidence** to stand in front of a group, the **communication** skills to present to a large or small group, and the **flexibility** to respond to the unexpected.

*Practicum students learn how to utilize movement and space. Each drama lesson concluded with a debriefing, allowing students to discuss how to implement what they had learned that day.*



**The Solution:** Theatre and acting require these same skills. For this reason, the Practicum course has become “Theatre for Teachers.” In class, students are trained to develop voice control, gain movement awareness, and to learn to “think on their feet” through improvisation.