



# Program Building: A Practical Guide for High School Speech and Drama Teachers

By Toby Heathcotte

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"Program Building" bridges a huge gap in the literature. Nothing comes close to the depth of this book and its tested techniques for:

Handling the Day-to-Day  
Creating Relationships  
Starting a Speech Team  
Directing the First Show  
Running an Auditorium  
Hosting a Tournament  
Teaching in the Inner City  
Resources with Websites

"'Program Building' is essential reading for every secondary school theatre teacher, especially for those just beginning their careers in the field. Ms. Heathcotte shares her pragmatic, insightful, and signature knowledge about the daily routines of one-person programs. She also generously contributes those little-known, oral-tradition ways-of-working that only veteran insiders possess." Johnny Saldana, Department of Theatre, Arizona State University

"'Program Building' really gets at the nitty-gritty of life in the trenches. I taught high school, including inner city teaching, before settling into university teaching and found the book loaded with practical tips one rarely is given. As a communication teacher, I particularly appreciated the focus on relationships. Students in our communication arts and literature teaching major found the advice practical and down-to-earth and the approach akin to that of a mentor." Judith K. Litterest, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Studies, St. Cloud State University

"Toby's practical, no nonsense, engaging style makes a difference. As a student teacher under her direction, I learned the value of listening and the impact of being with students where they are." Thomas S. Larkin, Senior VP, Communico Ltd., Consulting

"Toby Heathcotte remains my first and one of my best drama teachers. After reading her book, I understand why." Joel Briel, New York Actor

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#### Review

"Program Building is essential reading for every secondary school theatre teacher, especially for those just beginning their careers." -- *Johnny Saldaña, Arizona State*

"Program Building really gets at the nitty-gritty of life in the trenches, practical and down-to-earth." -- *Judith K. Litterst, Ph.D., Professor of Communication Studies, St. Cloud University*

#### About the Author

Toby Heathcotte taught speech and drama in public high schools for thirty years, twenty-three of them at Carl Hayden High School. She coached speech teams, directed shows, and ran auditoriums throughout her career. She was Chair of the Performing Arts Department, President of the Arizona Interscholastic Association Speech and Theatre Board, an official of the Arizona Forensic League and the Phoenix Union Classroom Teachers Association. She holds an A. B. Degree and an M. A. T. Degree from Indiana University, with postgraduate work at Ball State University and Arizona State University.

Most recently, Toby taught writing at Glendale Community College.

### **Users Review**

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##### **Sylvia Dozier:**

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**Keith Kemp:**

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