



# THE ACTORS THEATRE WORKSHOP, INC.

Thurman E. Scott, Artistic Director, Executive Producer and Founder  
[www.actorstheatreworkshop.com](http://www.actorstheatreworkshop.com)



**Thurman E. Scott** is the Artistic Director, Executive Producer, and Founder of The Actors Theatre Workshop. He is a master teacher of creative process and conflict resolution, and an award-winning actor, writer, director and producer who uses the principles of drama to address the conflicts of the community.

Before embarking upon his career as a theatre artist Mr. Scott served with distinction in the US Air Force Strategic Air Command where he flew over 300 missions as a bomb navigator on B-52's. He was recruited to Special Services where he excelled as an athlete. Developing his interest in boxing, he competed in many boxing competitions and attained the title of All Forces Middle Weight Boxing Champion for four years.

After his military service Mr. Scott began his creative training and studied in America, England and Russia for many years before embarking upon his professional career with the greatest drama teachers of the twentieth century, including Peggy Furey, Lee Strasberg, Sanford Meisner, Jerzey Grotowski, and at the Moscow Art Theatre and the London Academy of Dramatic Art. His primary creative influence was his mentor Stella Adler, with whom he shared a creative relationship spanning over twenty-five years.

Mr. Scott's extensive work on the stage includes a wide range of roles in over 60 classical and contemporary plays, including six seasons with the New York Shakespeare Festival; a special performance for the Moscow Art Theatre as Thomas Becket in *Becket*; an Obie Award-winning performance in *Open 24 Hours*; and several leading, award-winning roles in national touring productions including Lorraine Hansberry's *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*, Athol Fugard's *The Blood Knot*, and Baltimore's Center Stage *The Tempest*, for which he received a Best Actor Award. Mr. Scott's many film and television acting credits include the original cast of *One Life to Live*, and *The Incident, Across 110th Street, Voices, Firepower, Three Tough Guys*, and *The Paper Lion*. As a stage director, he received a Best Director Award from the League of Off-Broadway Theatres and Producers for *Soldiers of Freedom*. He is a founding member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre and a member of the American Renaissance Theater. Mr. Scott played a leading role developing, casting and producing over twenty feature films for Dino De Laurentiis Studios, and had a strong influence in developing the studio's strategy to produce medium-budget films.

Building on his professional success, Mr. Scott then turned his focus to developing new creative forms. Developing training programs for the incarcerated population, he discovered that the imagination flourishes in isolation and created new techniques to train the imagination, adding a whole new dimension to the American and European theatrical disciplines. By the time he incorporated ATW as a non-profit organization in 1990, Mr. Scott was an established leader in the American theatre, carrying on the artistic traditions of his mentors with a wide reputation of respect for his cutting-edge directorial work, award-winning acting and innovative, successful community based training programs.

Since 1990 Mr. Scott has led The Actors Theatre Workshop's development as a vital and flourishing New York City cultural institution that provides individuals with the tools to change through studying his original theatre and education technique, and has created new techniques to develop and produce plays, documentary films and training programs. Among his many accomplishments at ATW, he created and for 20 years has taught *The Builders of the New World*, a program that trains and develops homeless children's imaginations, leading to measurable personal, academic and professional success. He directed and produced the documentary film *Burned Churches* that tells the story of pastors whose churches were burned in the American south and raises the issue into a dialog on our national struggle with racism. He created and taught the *Israel / West Bank Drama and Conflict Resolution Project*, an ongoing program for Israeli and Palestinian young people and community leaders that has given participants new insights and ways of looking at the conflict, and greater empathy and understanding for themselves and each other.

Thurman E. Scott has won numerous awards and recognitions for his highly effective work as a teacher and theatre artist, including *The Teaching Peace Award*. Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger may have best stated the value of such work by saying, "Thurman E. Scott is a true visionary. That an artist of his magnitude has chosen to do work of this kind in our time is hope for the future." For Mr. Scott has done something unique at his theater and educational institution. He has proven over and over that creativity is the great equalizer and unifier among human beings, and given individuals the tools to overcome adversity. He has created plays and films of truth and power. He has changed lives of countless individuals with work that inspires hope.