

**COMMEDIA IN OUR MIDST**  
**Theatre Performance Intensive 2026**  
**YOUTH PROGRAM @ PHT**  
**INSTRUCTOR: SUSAN BERTOIA**

This Spring leap into the lively world of Italian masked theatre, Commedia dell'Arte! Commedia was a dynamic performance style that flourished in 15th C Europe which greatly influenced our modern sitcoms, comedy sketch shows and cartoons. Traditionally performed outdoors in the piazza, commedia was widely attended by all local town folk making it THE social event of the season. Join us as we take on the same tradition and entertain the local North Shore community with joy and laughter.

Susan Bertoia, a master teacher, is leading this interactive program for youth aged 13-18 years (Grade 8 -12) which will take participants on a journey through scenarios, physical lazzi and the stock characters (Arlecchino, Pulcinella, Columbina, Pantalone, Dottore, Il Capitano and the Young Lovers) using improvisation, mask and ensemble play. The one-week intensive program, meeting every day after school Tuesday to Friday will culminate in an imaginative, live, performance at the Presentation House Theatre on Saturday. The purpose of this program is for youth to engage with youth and their community through theatre performance.

**Participants:** This program is open to all youth (13 -18yrs) in the North Shore area. Having some background in theatre, dance or circus arts will elevate your experience, but is not necessary. It's basically for anyone who has a desire to move, to play and to have fun with like-minded creatives! Masks used were created by the late, great Gina Bastone.