Jeanmarie Bishop is a performer, playwright, director and educator. Born in rural Arizona, she moved with her family to Toronto in 1970 where she fell in love with the theatre in 7th grade after seeing the legendary production of Godspell (featuring Gilda Radner, Eugene Levy and Martin Short). Simpson began directing and writing while still in her teens and has performed dozens of roles in regional theatre and stock in the US and Canada. She is the founding artistic director of the Nevada Shakespeare Company and the founder and artistic director of Universal Access Productions, an Arizona-based theatre and film company dedicated to the creation of theatre and film accessible to everyone regardless of physical or intellectual ability.

Jeanmarie has been an artist in residence at K-12 public and private schools in Arizona and Nevada, working with elementary, middle and high school students as well as those with profound physical and cognitive/intellectual disabilities. She has worked as a teaching artist for community theatres, churches, civic and arts organizations, directing plays, producing videos, and presenting workshops and providing in-service training for teachers. Simpson has also taught college-level theatre classes in Nevada, Arizona and California.

School & Community Workshops

**Improvisation** (for all ages): Beginning vocal and physical warm-up exercises and improv games designed to engage the imagination “muscles” and train them to think creatively.

**Autonomous Theatre** (high schools and community groups): Engaging ideas based on Polish director Tadeusz Kantor’s autonomous investigations, presenting texts staged with parallel, metaphoric physical activity.

**Performance Production** (all ages): residencies culminating with the performance of existing scripted, staged theatre works.

**Original Performance** (all ages): residencies culminating with a performative reading of an original text written by the students.

**Adaptations** (all ages): Four to 10 week residencies culminating with the performance of readings, staged readings or fully staged performances of theatre adaptations of literary works

**Film** (all ages): All of the above classes designed for the camera.

Professional Development Workshops

**Acting Improvisation**

**Production**

**Film**: All of the above designed for the camera.