

Live & Learn Spring Playshop

Making Sense with the Sense of Humor

Date

June 8-10, 2010

Location

April Point Resort & Spa(3 hours north of Victoria)

Price

\$199 per person, including two nights accommodation, based on double occupancy

Description

Philosopher Martin Heidegger said we are “thrown” into the world. We are then left to our own devices to make sense of the world and our place in it. We apply our best judgment to this challenge, only to realize moments later both we and the world have changed, and the judgment cycle must begin again.

Making sense of this life requires flexibility, imagination and hope. Coping with the ambiguity of it requires humility and courage – the humility to let go, the courage to start again.

Honing the sense of humor can help! Ambiguity is the bedrock of comedy, and if you want to **get the joke**, you have to let go of your rationality, and surrender to the ridiculous. What better rehearsal for the work of making sense of non-sense in everyday life? What better way to enjoy the moment, or to recover and regroup?

In this playshop, we'll use games, puzzles, jokes, songs, movies and cartoons to explore life from the sunny side of the street. As Corliss reminds us, “Just one little letter separates the comic from the cosmic!”

About your instructor – Elaine Decker (elaine.decker@shaw.ca)

Elaine Decker has been a teacher for 40 years. She completed her PhD at UBC in 2004, studying humor as a pedagogical resource. She teaches university courses about humor – *Leadership is a Funny Business (UBC)*, *Comic Pedagogy(UBC)*, and *Humor Studies/Learning with and about Humor (BCIT)*. She writes articles on the topic including the recently published “What’s funny about teaching? Not enough!”, and “Bisociation and the Zipper Joke”, and she makes presentations and conducts workshops for community and professional groups to encourage people to see the sense of humor as a sense-making device. She is a certified Laughter Yoga instructor.

About April Point Resort & Spa

April Point Resort & Spa is an island getaway away from the crowds, featuring the elegant yet laid back atmosphere of the west coast. Enjoy wildlife tours, kayaking, fishing, spa treatments, island tours and sumptuous meals, all enhanced by the stunning natural beauty of Discovery Passage. Guests also enjoy the amenities of Painter’s Lodge in Campbell River, connected by a complimentary scenic water shuttle.

For reservations or more information, please call 1-800-663-7090
or visit obmg.com/learn

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Tuesday, June 8

- 3:00 pm Resort check in
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm Introductions. Patterns, prisons and play
- 7:30 – 9:30 pm What makes things *funny*? What makes things *normal*?

Wednesday, June 9

- 9:30 – 11:30 pm Physical comedy – it's harder than it looks!
- 1:30 – 5:00 pm The humor of the English language **or** the unreliability of spelling, grammar, syntax, punctuation, meanings and every other rule we have come to trust!
- 7:30 – 9:30 pm Putting humor to work. Satire, parody, cartoons, insults & repartee.

Thursday, June 10

- 9:30 – 11:30 am Breaking the rules.
- 12:00 pm Resort check out.