

# Features

## Players direct the first Discovery Theatre Workshop for Kids



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Discover Theatre participants perform their original play, "I am/We are" for family and friends at the Wimberley Playhouse.

### From Staff Reports

Nine area kids discovered how to create a theater from their own life experience on Saturday, March 24 at the Wimberley Playhouse. In the all-day workshop, this group of bright and imaginative 10 - 14 year-olds was guided to transform their pretending and imagining into a script and then to build the script into a theatrical presentation. Exploring themes of self-awareness and group identity, the young thespians wowed their parents and friends at the end of the day with an "in-progress" performance titled "I am/We are." Distinguished theater educators Monica Michell and Laura Haygood, both from Wimberley, led this first in a series of Discovery Theatre workshops for The Wimberley Players.

"We took the kids behind the stage, up to the sound booth, into the shop and back through the crossover

traveled to another world," said Haygood, retired theater and speech teacher, performer and director.

Participants learned how to transform their thoughts and feelings into a script, and then how to shape the words they wrote into a dramatic play with movement, vocals, and blocking. From there, they explored ways to create drama through rhythm, repetition and by using other dramatic tools. In the staging process, they learned how lighting, sound, props, and costumes contributed to the full expression of their ideas.

"We were pleased to see how many of the kids liked writing in their journals and creating the script. The girls and boys integrated beautifully," said Haygood. "Everyone made a new friend."

The all-day workshop included activities in the Wimberley Players garden and outdoor stage area at 450 Old Kyle Road, along with snacks and breaks.

young people how to connect themselves with the magical possibilities of theatre," said Michell, former Head of Theatre Education and Certification at Texas State University. "The children couldn't believe the workshop was over. Time

flew by for all of us."

Because of the enthusiastic response from parents and participants, another workshop is planned for the future. Check [wimberleyplayers.org](http://wimberleyplayers.org) regularly for details.



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