

## Academic Uses of Drama and Theater Games

*Time: 7-8pm, Wednesday 15 April 2015*

*Venue: 1103, conference center*

Speakers: Nan Mullenneaux, Professor of Writing across Cultures.

Philip Lance, Fiction Writer, Actor, Playwright.

**Dramatic readings and theater games have uses that extend beyond the traditional drama department's acting and theater training. Cultural historians analyze entertainment to understand another era's values and belief systems. Plays are one of the primary sources Dr. Mullenneaux uses to analyze eighteenth- and nineteenth-century race, class, and gender issues in colonial North America and the United States. This colloquium includes a staged reading of the play "A Doll's House" to demonstrate how a dramatic text can shape gender ideas.**

**Professor Mullenneaux will also explain and demonstrate how she uses theater games and improvisation to help improve students' writing. While at DKU she and Professor Lance have discovered many of these theater games also increase language and speaking skills for students at various levels of English proficiency. A brief student demonstration of these exercises is also planned. Discussion as to the feasibility of including these creative approaches across disciplines is welcomed.**

Nan Mullenneaux received her PhD in United States History and Gender Studies from the State University of New York at Albany. She has taught writing and history course at Duke University since 2009. She has published articles on nineteenth-century transnational theater markets, child actresses and national identity, and colonial America's women's legal history. Nan is currently completing a book *Staging Family: Nineteenth-Century American Actresses' Reinvention of Domesticity* (University of Nebraska Press – Women and Expanding Frontiers Series.) Nan is also a professional actress and acting teacher.

Philip Lance is a fiction writer, actor, and playwright. Formerly a history teacher, a high-school administrator, lawyer, judge, and support magistrate, Phil has a Master's degree in U. S. history and Juris Doctorate.