



# THE ACTORS THEATRE WORKSHOP, INC.

Thurman E. Scott, Artistic Director, Executive Producer and Founder  
[www.actorstheatreworkshop.com](http://www.actorstheatreworkshop.com)



**Thurman E. Scott** is the Artistic Director, Executive Producer, and Founder of the Actors Theatre Workshop.

Thurman E. Scott was born on a farm in North Carolina, where experiencing the organic nature of farm life created a deep and profound curiosity about the world and inspired in him dreams about far-away places. As a young man he moved to Philadelphia, went to school and worked part-time on the waterfront where he learned about the many home ports of the ships he worked on and began to fulfill his curiosity about the world. He and his fellow workers held lunchtime boxing matches on the docks and he became an outstanding boxer. He joined the US Air Force Strategic Air Command where he flew over 300 missions as a bomb navigator on B-52's and served with distinction. Because of his teenage boxing background he was recruited to Special Services and attained the title of All Forces Middle Weight Boxing Champion for four years.

After his military service Mr. Scott began his creative training and studied in Europe and America for many years before embarking upon his professional career with the greatest drama teachers of the twentieth century, including Peggy Furey, Lee Strasberg, Sanford Meisner, Jerzey Grotowski, and at the Moscow Art Theatre and the London Academy of Dramatic Art. His primary creative influence was his mentor Stella Adler, with whom he shared a creative relationship spanning over twenty-five years.

Mr. Scott is a master teacher of creative process and conflict resolution, and an award-winning actor, writer, director and producer. His work on the stage includes a wide range of roles in over 60 classical and contemporary plays, including six seasons with the New York Shakespeare Festival; an Obie Award-winning performance in *Open 24 Hours*; and several leading, award-winning roles in national touring productions. Mr. Scott's many film and television acting credits include the original cast of *One Life to Live*. As a stage director, he received a Best Director Award from the League of Off-Broadway Theatres and Producers for *Soldiers of Freedom*. He has served as the Artistic Director of the National Black Theater, is a founding member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre, and a member of the American Renaissance Theater. Early in his career he was a creative and producing prodigy of Ralph Serpe, the head of production for Dino De Laurentiis Studios in Italy and America. Mr. Scott played a leading role developing, casting and producing over twenty feature films, and had a strong influence in developing the studio's strategy to produce medium-budget films.

Building on his professional success, Mr. Scott then turned his focus to developing new creative forms. Developing training programs for the incarcerated population, he discovered that the imagination flourishes in isolation and created new techniques to train the imagination, adding a whole new dimension to the American and European theatrical disciplines. By the time he incorporated ATW as a non-profit organization in 1990, Mr. Scott was an established leader in the American theatre, carrying on the artistic traditions of his mentors with a wide reputation of respect for his cutting-edge directorial work, award-winning acting and innovative, successful community based training programs.

Since 1990 Mr. Scott has led The Actors Theatre Workshop's development as a vital and flourishing New York City cultural institution that provides individuals with the tools to change through studying his original theatre and education technique, and has created new techniques to develop and produce plays, documentary films and training programs. Among his many accomplishments at ATW, he created and for 15 years has taught *The Builders of the New World*, a program that trains and develops homeless children's imaginations, leading to measurable personal, academic and professional success. He directed and produced the documentary film *Burned Churches* that tells the story of pastors whose churches were burned in the American south and raises the issue into a dialog on our national struggle with racism. He has won numerous awards and recognitions for his highly effective work as a teacher and theatre artist, including *The Teaching Peace Award*. Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger may have best stated the value of such work by saying, "Thurman E. Scott is a true visionary. That an artist of his magnitude has chosen to do work of this kind in our time is hope for the future." For Mr. Scott has done something unique at his theater and educational institution. He has proven over and over that creativity is the great equalizer and unifier among human beings, and given individuals the tools to overcome adversity. He has created plays and films of truth and power. He has changed lives of countless individuals with work that inspires hope.