In classes and rehearsals, we spend a great deal of time discussing what “character” means. How do we “build character” both on stage and in our lives? We ask students to carefully consider how the “moral fiber” of ancient Greek heroes and heroines applies to them in their daily lives. The favorite motto of modern acting teacher Sanford Meisner was “an ounce of behavior is worth a ton of words.” This, too, applies both to how we prepare a role and how we prepare ourselves for living as responsible adults. Our actions reveal more about our character than even our words, though both are important. It is very important (but also sometimes complicated) to be a gentleman in our contemporary world. Theater offers a mirror for understanding these complexities. It honors the sorrow we experience; at the same time, it celebrates life’s mystery and revels in life’s blessings, its comic absurdities and its sheer silliness. We value theater’s power to move people and to create catharsis in people’s lives. In our program that emphasizes a strong ensemble, there is no star system. We are here to learn from each other and to collaborate creatively. Theater makes us more compassionate as we are asked to “put on the shoes” of others, as we look at life from others’ perspectives.