

JUNE 2009

ACTING

Scott Williams

Starry-Eyed Realists

June 1, 2, 3

10.30-17.30

Course: A1

The characters created by Anton Chekhov and Tennessee Williams would seem to have this in common: they are lost in reverie much of the time. 'Next year, in Moscow...' 'Go to the moon you starry-eyed dreamer!' Both playwrights make similar demands on the actor - the demands of heightened language, deep passions and sometimes improbable behaviour that are rooted in reality. How does the twenty-first century actor cope? This course explores the two writers using the Meisner Technique, and uses the technique towards a heightened style of acting. A course for those with experience of the Meisner Technique.

- Scott is founder of the Impulse Company, which works with actors, writers and directors to create vibrant and dynamic theatre. As a director, his work has been seen all over the world.

PARTICIPANTS: £72

Bathsheba Garnett

Exploring Simplicity

June 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

10.30-17.30

Course: A2

Simplicity aims to help you to perfect your skills for television, film and stage. It will help you breathe life into the text and achieve genuine communication with your fellow performers. You will develop the techniques that will give you the freedom, clarity and creativity essential for your work. We will work on short scenes with monologues suitable for auditions from Shakespeare, Ibsen, Chekhov and other European classics. We will focus on character and explore your choices of action and behaviour. This is an advanced workshop, but beginners in Simplicity may join the class as well.

- Bathsheba trained with Lee Strasberg and Uta Hagen. She has directed over sixty productions including *Medea*, *Playboy of the Western World* and *Orpheus Descending*. Acting credits include *Gideon* on Broadway with Tyrone Guthrie, *The Killing Fields*, *Mean Girls*, *Mafia Doctor*, *P2* and *X-Files*. Most recent film credits include *Blindness* directed by Fernando Meirelles and *Adoration* directed by Atom Egoyan.

PARTICIPANTS: £114

Kate Maravan

The Meisner Technique – An Introduction

June 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23

18.00-21.00

Course: A3

Experience an intensive introduction to the Meisner Technique. This off-shoot of Stanislavski's method, created by Sanford Meisner, uses three basic exercises to get at the core definition of acting: 'Acting is living truthfully under an imaginary set of circumstances'. Discover an exciting and transforming way of working. Continue to study and develop the Meisner Technique in Kate's weekly classes, Mondays 2-5pm.

- Kate is an actress/director and teacher. She has worked extensively in TV, radio and theatre and has written scripts for the BBC and Channel 4. She has worked closely with Scott Williams exploring and developing the Meisner Technique. A co-founder of WhiteBox, she co-created and wrote their debut production, *Angel Filth* which was performed at the Tristan Bates Theatre.

PARTICIPANTS: £84

Vicky Jones

An Actor Prepares ... FAST!

June 13

10.30-17.30

Course: A4

In the modern age actors are challenged to produce results – fast. Sight-reading, Shorts nights, budget or scratch productions, TV and film auditions and a culture of conveyor-belt turnover, all suggest there has never been a more urgent time for an actor to be prepared to make smart, potent decisions about character and get quickly up to speed with a text. This workshop will tackle the following concerns: how to get the most out of sight-reading; how to make an impact with a text, without missing vital details; how to prepare for an audition with very little time; strategising the quality of the character's voice; script-readings - identifying and prioritising what is important about the process; getting the most from (or despite!) the director's contribution.

• Vicky is co-Artistic Director of DryWrite (www.drywrite.com), a theatre company dedicated to interrogating and challenging the roles of playwright and audience. Over the past six years, Vicky has worked as a freelance workshop leader for the Young Writers Programme at the Royal Court. Other freelance directing credits include: *The Freedom of the City* (Finborough Theatre), *A Bedroom* (Lyric Studio) and *The Blind Bird* (Gate Theatre, Directors Festival). For the NT, *Coram Boy* and *Rafta, Rafta* (Staff Director), *Banned: The History of Censorship* (NT Platform). As AD, *Piano/Forte*, *I Remember the Royal Court*, *The One with the Oven*, *Rampage* (Royal Court Theatre).

PARTICIPANTS: £25

Chrys Salt

I Was Brilliant in the Bedroom:

Workshop and Showcase

June 15, 16, 22, July 6, 10, 13, 17, 20

10.30-17.30

PERFORMANCE July 20 at 6.30pm

COURSE: A5

Chrys Salt's Showcase workshop has been a sell-out class at The Actors Centre for a number of years. As a result many members have found representation and developed flourishing careers. Not only does the course address everything you need to know about finding work and refining your marketing package, it culminates in a high quality Showcase which has become increasingly popular with Agents and other Casting Personnel.

'This course re-arranged the way I perceived this profession... so much valuable information along with the support in identifying my strong suits. By the time we got to the showcase I thought ' this is already worth-while even if nothing else comes out of it' - but not only did I get new representation (I was lucky to have quite a few offers) I came out energised and focused about driving forward my career with a new headshot and attractive CV.... lo and behold, I just got my first West End job! (Former workshop participant: Noa Bodner).

Bring an audition piece you feel comfortable with, your CV and photograph, pencil and paper, and a 60-word biography on the first day (for details of earlier classes visit www.actorscentreshowcase.com).

• Chrys is an award-winning theatre director and writer. She has written seven books for actors on auditioning (Methuen Monologues for Men and Women) and on the business of acting (Make Acting Work, pub: Methuen Drama). She directs extensively in theatre and sound and has directed many of the country's leading actors.

PARTICIPANTS: £180

CV APPLICATION

Philip Weaver
Letting the Character Speak

June 16
10.30-17.30

Course: A6

In rehearsal, an actor's inner strengths of creativity and imagination can often be subdued by the imperatives of a text and the dictates of a director. But there are ways of winning this battle; this is a survival course. We shall combine the principles of Michael Chekhov's technique with Stanislavski's mature ideas to release the actor from the shackles of textual logic and the spoken word. Please learn one minute (no longer!) of any character's speech from Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*.

• Philip has worked as a director and actor for stage, radio and television. He trained at The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and Goldsmiths College, University of London. He is currently Head of Acting at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

Ariella Eshed
Exploring Character through Physicality

June 17, 18
10.30-17.30

Course: A7

Physical characterisation includes several techniques such as tension levels, elements and archetypes that can be very helpful while working on monologues and scenes in any genre of theatre. In this workshop we will start by working on the techniques physically and then we will use them to explore a number of scenes from Chekhov plays. A reading list will be provided closer to the workshop's date.

• Ariella's directing credits include *A Public Kind of Privacy* (Brighton Festival), *Ya'akobi and Leidental* (Oval House, New End, Soho Theatres), *Crocodile Seeking Refuge* (Lyric Hammersmith) and *Hannah and Hannah* (Israeli tour).

PARTICIPANTS: £48

Kevin Tomlinson
Are We Nearly There Yet? - An Advanced Improvisation Course/Performance

June 17, 24, July 2, 9, 15
10.30-17.30

Course: A8

A rare and exciting opportunity to perform in an improvisation show created and led by Kevin Tomlinson. The show, entitled *Are We Nearly There Yet?*, will be performed in the Tristan Bates Theatre in front of a paying audience on July 15th (7.30pm) as part of the Edinburgh Festival Preview Season. Ideal for inviting friends and family along to as well as agents, directors and casting folk. If the show goes well, it may be developed further and taken on tour.

The 5 days of workshops leading up to the show will be used to create an in-tune, highly sensitive, open, trusting and brave group of improvisers, who will form an impressive collective. The overall emphasis of the show will be on storytelling and exploring what it is to be a human being, as opposed to being 'funny' and trying to outwit each other. Techniques covered will include: mantras, attitudes, platforms, tilts, creative resistance, pyramids and counter-energies, along with general storytelling techniques.

Are We Nearly There Yet? - the show

An improvisation show that rejoices in the beauty and silliness of being a human being! Based on true stories and anecdotes from the audience. The show will look at key moments in our lives, such as leaving home, getting a new job, falling in love and losing something of value. All the scenes will be brought to life by a multi-talented group of skilled improvisers.

• Kevin is one of the UK's leading teachers of improvisation and mask work, having taught workshops all over the world, most notably for the British Council, National Theatre and his own Kepow Theatre Company. He has worked with the legendary Keith Johnstone (author of *Impro*) and most recently starred in the lead role of Keith's absurdist play *Damien*, directed by Keith himself. Kevin can currently be seen on tour in his one man impro show *Seven Ages*.

www.youtube.com/kevintomlinsonuk

PARTICIPANTS: £120

Peter Searles

Private Lives

June 19

10.30-17.30

Course: A9

This workshop will look at mastering the comedic acting skills needed to play classic comedy. The first act of Coward's classic comedy of manners, *Private Lives*, is terrific fun and regarded by many as nearly flawless a first act of comedy as any written in any language. Using this first act we will look at; speaking distinctly and at pace; how to point lines and handle verbal repartee; recognising variations in rhythmic stress that allow the building and releasing of dramatic tension, while all time playing the action and the line rather than going for the laugh. Open to all levels of experience.

• Peter is an actor, writer, director and prolific workshop facilitator. Over the past ten years he has gained a reputation as one of the country's foremost stand-up storytellers – touring his repertoire of one-man shows all over the world. Sell out successes in the UK include the National Theatre, Soho Theatre and numerous prestigious festivals. He has written for TV (BBC1, BBC2), Radio 4 and the theatre (the Bush, 7.84 England and the NYT). His workshop credits include 12 years for the National Theatre and 7 years for the ESC including a specially devised series of Shakespeare workshops for a university tour of the USA.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

Lyndsey Turner

Who's Who in New Writing?

June 27, 28

10.30-17.30

Course: A10

Don't know your Simon Stephens from your Christopher Shinn? British theatre is increasingly dominated by new writing, but creating a role for the first time brings its own challenges for an actor. How do you create a character from scratch? What does it mean to work with a writer in a rehearsal room? And what do the new generation of British writers demand from actors? This workshop provides a whistle stop tour of who's who and what's what in the world of new writing. Using extracts from the work of new and established playwrights, we will explore the style, preoccupations, language and formal demands of the current new writing scene. Ideal for actors with a real interest in new writing who want to find out more about the challenges and opportunities of the current new writing scene.

• Lyndsey Turner is an Associate Director of the Gate Theatre. Her directing credits include *Nocturnal* at the Gate, *A Miracle*, *Contractions* and *Posh* at the Royal Court.

PARTICIPANTS: £48

Scott Williams

The Meisner Technique

June 29, 30, July 1, 2, 3

10.30-17.30

Course: A11

An introduction to the famous Meisner Technique as it is taught at the Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York, whose alumni include Robert Duval, Sidney Pollack and David Mamet. This off-shoot of Stanislavsky's method, created by Sanford Meisner, uses three basic exercises to get at the core definition of acting: 'acting is living truthfully under a given set of circumstances'.

• Scott is founder of the Impulse Company, which works with actors, writers and directors to create vibrant and dynamic theatre. As a director, his work has been seen all over the world.

PARTICIPANTS: £114

OBSERVERS: £50

Charlotte Westenra

Scene Studies

June 29, 30, July 1

10.30-17.30

Course: A12

Theatre director Charlotte Westenra will work with a group of actors on selected scenes from Shakespeare, Restoration tragedy and modern texts. The group will look at language, suspense, status and what a given scene can tell you about your character.

• Charlotte recently directed *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the Donmar Warehouse and *We, The People* at Shakespeare's Globe. Her other credits include Tanika Gupta's *Gladiator Games* at Theatre Royal Stratford East, *When Five Years Pass* at the Arcola and *Darfur - How Long Is Never?* at the Tricycle. She worked with Nicolas Kent on *Bloody Sunday* and *Justifying War* and trained as a director at the Donmar Warehouse.

PARTICIPANTS: £72

LABWORK

Jeremy Stockwell

In Your Own Way

June 1, 2, 3

10.30-17.30

Course: L1

This intensive and empowering three day workshop is a playful investigation into truth, trust and integrity at work and at play. If life is the most creative act of all, with no rehearsal, perhaps we might consider how best and most effectively we can play our part. In Your Own Way encourages practitioners to achieve heightened sensory and intuitive awareness, recognise present engagement, let go of preconceived and dogmatic notions of how things 'should' be, and give in and trust to the spontaneous immediate process of self. The course promotes present engagement and creative self-expression. Through our own awareness of environment, others, and self we may wake-up to emotional and artistic liberation - encouraging those we work/play with to do the same!

Of course, the title of this session has a completely opposite meaning to that expressed so far. Indeed we may often find ourselves frustrated by being in our own way! This restrictive and hampering aspect may also be explored and played with during the course. In Your Own Way offers practical, physical, and philosophical means by which we can simply and effectively work/play in our own way, thereby greatly increasing our potential and enjoyment of personal and professional success. N.B. Some elements of this course may be presented as a showing at the end of day three. Please wear loose comfortable clothing and be prepared to work without shoes. Latecomers may not be admitted.

• Jeremy Stockwell features in 'The Speaker' series, BBC2. See www.bbc.co.uk/speaker He is an acting coach in TV and film. He is also a theatre director and had been recently commissioned to make a new piece about Edgar Allan Poe for this summer's Freiburg festival. For contact and information visit www.jeremystockwell.co.uk

PARTICIPANTS: £72

Rob de Graaf and Teunkie van der Sluijs

Peace by Rob de Graaf. Workshop and reading of a contemporary European play

June 8, 9, 10

10.30-17.30

Course: L2

Playwright Rob de Graaf and director Teunkie van der Sluijs are looking to explore a popular piece of contemporary European playwriting in translation over a period of three days, culminating in a rehearsed reading for industry professionals. The award-winning play *Peace* (*Vrede*, 2006), by Dutch writer Rob de Graaf, is a bleak but painfully funny investigation into mourning. Four characters who otherwise hardly ever meet spend a night in each other's company. In their midst a recently deceased man. His death has brought his gay partner, his sister, her husband, and an old lover together. Under the huge pressure of their recent loss, old grievances explode.

For actors, this workshop performance and rehearsed reading will be a chance to collaborate with a prominent voice in contemporary European playwriting, and to contribute to the shaping of the play's English translation. The simplicity of *Peace*'s plot allows for a tremendous depth in character study and a wide range of emotional extremes. The writer and director are seeking to form a group of actors willing to investigate the play's issues, themes and particularly its poetic, heightened language as a way of exploring and possibly improving the existing English translation. They will treat the workshop as if these are the first three days of a rehearsal process, so for the actors this also presents a way to explore best practices on initiating a rehearsal process and starting work on a new play's concerns and issues. On the third day, a rehearsed reading for an invited audience will be held.

- Rob De Graaf is one of the best-known and most popular contemporary Dutch playwrights. He is known for his sharp social portrayal, for the dark humour, cruelty and wit of his texts and for the refined, poetic quality of his language. *Peace* has been a resounding success in the Netherlands, playing a two-year sell-out run. It was awarded both the Prosceniumprijs and the Taalunie Toneelschrijfprijs, two major new writing awards. The play has been translated into German and French; and now an English translation has been prepared by Liz Savage. De Graaf has been writing since the 1970s and was awarded the Charlotte Köhler Prize for his contribution to theatre in the Netherlands. His texts have been widely translated into French, English and German.

- Dutch-born director Teunkie van der Sluijs trained in theatre directing at Rose Bruford College in London. Recent directing credits include *Yasser* (critic's choice, *The Times* and *Chicago Tribune*) for *Assembly Rooms* on the Edinburgh Fringe and subsequent USA and UK tour, *Kerry Leaves Home* at Battersea Arts Centre and *The Empire Builders* at the Pleasance Theatre Islington. He is an associate at the Chopin Theatre, Chicago, and works in both the UK and the Netherlands.

PARTICIPANTS: £60

CV APPLICATION

SHAKESPEARE

Russell Bolam

Applying Stanislavski to Shakespeare

June 8

10.30-17.30

Course: SH1

A workshop that demonstrates how the techniques of probably the greatest acting teacher can liberate the work of probably the greatest playwright. Stanislavski's techniques and legacy are associated with modern work and usually applied to plays in the past century. This workshop will demonstrate how such staple approaches as Stanislavskian text analysis, improvisations, lists, silent etudes, and given circumstances can help an actor unlock and assimilate Shakespearean text and cultivate characterisation and spontaneity in a Shakespearean role. Participants will need to bring a section of text (already paraphrased in their own words) from a role they wish to play in any of Shakespeare plays.

• Russell trained at Middlesex University and GITIS Academy of Theatre Arts, Moscow. His theatre credits as director include *Tiny Bones* (Theatre 503), *Captain Oates' Left Sock* (Finborough), *Three More Sleepless Nights* and *Fourplay* (Tristan Bates Theatre), *Zygoty* (Kings Head), *Fairytaleheart* (Old Red Lion), *What the Butler Didn't Do* (Lakeside Arts Centre), *The Physicists* (Aphra Studio). His credits as assistant director include *The Winter's Tale*, *Pericles*, *Days of Significance* (RSC Complete Works Season/US Tour), *An Inexplicable Act of Violence* (Old Vic 24 Hour Plays), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Seagull* (Bristol Old Vic), *A Background Noise* (Nottingham Playhouse). He was also text assistant on *Timon of Athens* (Shakespeare's Globe).

PARTICIPANTS: £25

Luke Dixon

Shakespeare Squad – The Winters Tale

June 9, 16, 23, 30

18.00-21.00

Course: SH2

Four fun sessions exploring a Shakespeare play with a sharing at the end of the final day for friends and colleagues. We will work through scenes and speeches, cast so everyone has meaty things to do (if necessary across gender) and bring the text alive in lightning speed. Ideal for anyone who has never performed Shakespeare to an audience before, those who just love the play, or anyone up for the challenge of mounting a potted version of the play in record time. Bring a copy of *The Winters Tale*.

• Luke is Artistic Director of both the International Workshop Festival and theatre nomad. He has directed Shakespeare around the world from North America to Siberia. His new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be touring internationally this year. Luke's *Good Audition Guides to Shakespeare's Monologues* will be published by Nick Hern Books in early 2009.

PARTICIPANTS: £56

Deborah Paige

Your Money or Your Love

June 15

10.30-17.30

Course: SH3

A workshop on *The Merchant of Venice* examining which is the stronger motivating force - money or love, and the mutual dependence in borrowing and lending, giving and receiving. Come with an open mind, really good working knowledge of the play and one learnt speech you feel will help explore the theme of the play. Suitable for skilled actors who enjoy interpreting the play as well as the part. Please wear comfortable clothes you can move around in.

• Deborah directs for theatre, TV and radio. In addition to her many credits as Artistic Director of Salisbury Playhouse and Sheffield Crucible her work includes productions for the National Theatre, the Old Vic and most recently at the Arcola where her own company, Paigeworks, premiered *Afterbirth* by Dave Florez. TV credits include *EastEnders*, *Judge John Deed* and *Holby City*.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

TV/FILM

Participants can take away a copy of their footage if they bring a VHS or blank DVD to their TV class. (Bring a DVD-RW,+RW for John Melainey's classes, and a DVD-R for all other TV classes.)

Please let the camera operator know that you wish to record your footage before the start of filming.

All recording of footage is done during class time; it cannot be transferred to tape or DVD afterwards.

Pratibha Parmar
Romantic Comedy on Screen

June 4, 5
10.30-17.30

Course: TV3

A two-day workshop exploring the craft of acting for the camera through the genre of romance and comedy. We will rehearse scenes from television and film scripts, shoot and analyse what gives a performance vibrancy in front of the camera. Going through basic terminology for shots and camera moves, participants new to television and film will gain a grounding in acting for the camera.

• Pratibha Parmar is a director and producer who started in documentary filmmaking, has since directed short dramas and a feature film. Her credits include *Warrior Marks*, *A Place of Rage*, *Doctors* (BBC 1) and her feature film, *Nina's Heavenly Delights*.

PARTICIPANTS: £86

AJ Quinn
The Cagney Principle - Four to One

June 10
18.00-19.30
19.30-21.00

Course: TV4

A J Quinn offers the opportunity for groups of four actors to work with him on-camera in an intensive ninety-minute session. A chance to do it 'for real'. 'Learn your lines, hit your mark, look the other fellow in the eye and tell the truth.' - James Cagney. Two separate sessions; please specify your preferred time when booking.

• Anthony has directed in theatre, on radio and TV. His credits include the BAFTA-nominated children's drama series *Barking!*, *Wire in the Blood*, and *The Bill* Christmas Special.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

John Melainey
Improve Your Chances

June 15
10.30-17.30

Course: TV5

We will look at the dos and don'ts when casting and auditioning for film, TV and commercials. How can you improve your chances when you never get to see the video played back, never see how the others read for the part, never get feedback from the director and never get the script in time to be off the book? John will guide you on the way to improving your chances of a successful audition. Please bring a DVD RW if you want to take away footage of this class.

• John has been running casting sessions for Hubbard Casting for the last ten years, as well as being an actor and director.

PARTICIPANTS: £44

OBSERVERS: £10

Peter Cregeen
I Was Good when I Read for It

June 16
10.30-17.30

Course: TV6

However experienced you are, if you haven't done any television recently you can be out of practice acting for the screen. This workshop, for those with some experience, will focus on how you harness your energy to give of your best in what can sometimes appear to be an alien environment. Please bring a piece of no longer than two minutes that you know well. You will be expected to learn material throughout the day.

• Peter Cregeen has worked continuously across the industry both as a producer and director since the 1960's. He was the original director of *The Bill* and for five years was Head of Drama Series at the BBC. His most recent credits include *Casualty*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Night and Day*.

PARTICIPANTS: £44

Maggie Ollerenshaw and Barbara Thorn

A Different Take

June 18

10.30-17.30

Course: TV7

This workshop shows how to better your chances in the current climate - how to best present yourself when your interview is being recorded, and how to leave a positive lasting impression. The interviews will be watched and analysed on playback.

• Barbara played Inspector Christine Frazer in over 100 episodes of *The Bill*. She has most recently been seen in *Trial and Retribution* and the series *Judge John Deed* for the BBC.
• Maggie is mainly known for her TV work, playing Florence Ranby in *The House Of Eliot* and Wavy Mavis in *Open All Hours*. She has also been Associate Director at the Gateway Theatre, Chester, and Guest Director at many other venues.

PARTICIPANTS: £44

Deborah Paige

Acting on TV

June 19

10.30-17.30

Course: TV8

This workshop will look at basic television acting - from reading for the part to the last take. Confront your fears, prepare for the part, analyse your work, and enjoy the medium.

• Deborah directs for theatre, TV and radio. In addition to her many credits as Artistic Director of Salisbury Playhouse and Sheffield Crucible her work includes productions for the National Theatre, the Old Vic and most recently at the Arcola where her own company, Paigeworks, premiered *Afterbirth* by Dave Florez. TV credits include *EastEnders*, *Judge John Deed* and *Holby City*.

PARTICIPANTS: £44

Masha Vlassova

Commercials Castings - The Full Picture

June 23

10.30-17.30

Course: TV9

Become relaxed with how the camera sees you. This workshop is an intensive look at the specific requirements on actors for commercials castings. We will work with actual scripts from recent commercials, simulating the atmosphere of a casting session, with the opportunity to review and discuss your work. Please bring a VHS tape.

• Masha worked for several years with Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, casting, filming and editing commercials. Later freelance advertising work includes J.Walter Thompson and McCann Erickson.

PARTICIPANTS: £44

Michael Ferguson

From Strength to Strength

June 25

June 25

10.30-13.30

14.30-17.30

TV10

TV11

Each session is limited to six participants. Goethe wrote: 'Talent develops in quiet places.' These concentrated, half-day workshops are an opportunity for members to develop and intensify their screen performance talents in small groups. Short scenes are rehearsed and recorded, reviewed, discussed, developed, re-recorded and reviewed again. The director works closely with the participants throughout the session and provides individual coaching where appropriate. Some speed learning will be required.

- Michael has over 40 years' experience as a director and writer of broadcast television drama, and has produced many well-known programmes, including *EastEnders*, *Casualty* and *The Bill*. In 2002 he established and headed the Film and Television training department at the ArtsEd School of Acting. In 2007 he devised and directed three short films produced at the Actors Centre under the generic title Pictures at Large.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

TOOLBOX

Trudy Lewis

Bothmer Gymnastics – An Art of Movement

June 20

14.00-16.00

Course: TB1

Bothmer Gymnastics is a series of exercises based on space and gravity.

The particularity of these exercises is characterised by the use of the three dimensions, width, depth and height. It is through the use of these that the practice of Bothmer exercises enables us to rediscover space as a reality we can both feel and use to our greatest advantage. By awakening and developing, within ourselves, the qualities particular to each plane, we empower and strengthen the source of our true potential. Invaluable tools are to be acquired from this poetic art of movement which invites us to explore our being with a physical awareness of how depth, width and height interact with each other and how these forces at play influence our everyday lives. Underlining the magnificent adventure of being human, this work is biographical and invites us to observe, understand and change, through our own consciousness, the way in which we engage ourselves in the world. NB. Please wear comfortable clothing you can move easily in and light footwear.

- Trudy trained at The Arts Educational, London later studying mime with Ella Jarosowicz in Paris and afterwards attending the Actors Studio there. After completing her 4 year training in Bothmer Gymnastics, both in France and Great Britain, she began teaching actors and performers in London and Paris.

PARTICIPANTS: £12.50

Robert Bowman

NLP and the Actor – Monthly Sessions

June 20

10.30-17.30

Course: TB2

Actors Centre members have found NLP extremely useful in regards their acting and there is a real desire to do more. With this in mind, we will now be running monthly **NLP and the Actor** sessions. The day will be structured in such a way that fundamental techniques of NLP are covered as well as personal 'issues' being worked on in session. They will be tailored in such a way that you can plan to do the following month or come and go as you want to. The number of sessions you do is entirely up to you. Please bring a prepared speech and if you have any specific 'issues' you'd like to work on relating to your acting/career then please let the Actors

Centre know at least three days before the class. These classes are open to those with experience of NLP, limited experience or no experience. Please be on time, latecomers will not be admitted.

- Robert Bowman is Joint Artistic Director of Living Pictures Productions. He is a director, actor and acting teacher. He has worked in over 30 professional productions as an actor and has directed for the Bristol Old Vic, Bath Theatre Royal, Sherman Cymru and Living Pictures Productions. His training in NLP has been with Richard Bandler, Paul McKenna, Michael Neill and Ian McDermott. He is a master practitioner in NLP.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

Peter Searles

The Art of Listening

June 30

10.30-13.30

Course: TB3

The job of the actor first and foremost is that of the communicator, but communication is a two-way process. The listener's role is as central to the communication process as the speaker's role. By observing our own and other peoples listening habits it quickly becomes evident that there is a lot we can do to improve them.

- Peter is an actor, writer, director and prolific workshop facilitator. Over the past ten years he has gained a reputation as one of the country's foremost stand-up storytellers – touring his repertoire of one-man shows all over the world. Sell out successes in the UK include the National Theatre, Soho Theatre and numerous prestigious festivals. He has written for TV (BBC1, BBC2), Radio 4 and the theatre (the Bush, 7.84 England and the NYT). His workshop credits include 12 years for the National Theatre and 7 years for the ESC including a specially devised series of Shakespeare workshops for a university tour of the USA.

PARTICIPANTS: £14

RECORDED VOICE

Lara Parmiani

One-to-One Voiceover Sessions

June 17, 24

10.30-13.30

Course: RV1

Would you like to work in voice-overs but don't know where to start? Are you planning to record a demo but are not sure what kind of material to select? What is it that your voice can really sell? And are you sure you know what this market is really looking for? In these sessions, Lara can give you advice on how to break into the lucrative world of voice-over, where the main sources of work are and how to produce a successful demo with tips on advertising yourself on the internet. 45-minute private sessions. Feel free to bring previous recorded material (CD or tape).

- Lara is a voice-over actress who in 1997 won the Paola Tovaglia Award for best female voice-over artiste. Her international experience includes work for MTV, Discovery, Paramount, Channel 4 and BBC Worldwide.

PARTICIPANTS: £28

Ian Masters

Radio Drama

June 25

10.30-17.30

Course: RV2

Through a combination of demonstrations and practical participation, we will explore all aspects of radio drama. This workshop will show you how to avoid common errors, give a sound explanation of all technical aspects and demonstrate the different acting techniques that radio demands. You will work both individually and in groups and will follow the progress of a

production from the read-through to recording. We will also briefly look at various ways to begin getting work in radio. By the end of the day you will be equipped to enter any audio drama with confidence and a reasonable amount of expertise.

- Having spent the first half of his career as an actor, inbetween directing productions Ian still continues to act, particularly in radio where he has been in over one hundred and fifty productions for BBC Radio 4. He has worked for Ray Cooney and Alan Ayckbourn and has directed many of their plays. He has worked extensively at the Mill Theatre, Sonning where he most recently directed Robin Hawdon's *A Night in Provence*. He has also directed many pantomimes, most recently *Cinderella* at the Opera House, Manchester.

PARTICIPANTS: £30

VOICE

Simone Dietrich

Kinesiology and Voice Release

June 29

10.30-16.30

Course: VC1

Based on the kinesiological principles of Three In One Concepts, the workshop will offer performers a wide range of easy-to-use techniques to deal promptly with performance and/or vocal issues such as stage fright, sightreading, undue tension and vocal presence. Three In One Kinesiology releases emotional stress and improves learning and performing abilities. Additionally there will be a demonstration of the Indicator Muscle Test, which is normally used to identify and resolve deeply rooted negative beliefs and thinking patterns that might keep us from reaching our full artistic potential.

- Simone holds an MA in Voice Studies Central and is a certified 3in1 Concepts Consultant Facilitator. Her work specialises in kinesiological approaches, using biofeedback in order to defuse vocal and performance related stress. She teaches voice at The Academy of Contemporary Music as well as the INAC theatre academy in Berlin. Simone is an Associate Member of the Kinesiology Federation. Visit www.themovingvoice.com for more information.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

AUDITION

Carol Royle

Audition Speeches

June 16

10.30-13.30

Course: PA1

Bring a piece of your choice, classical or modern, and work with Carol for half an hour on improving your audition technique and presentation.

- Carol began her career in rep before joining the RSC. Work for them includes Ophelia in *Hamlet*, for which she won the Drama Critics Award for Most Promising Actress, Cressida in *Troilus and Cressida* and Princess of France in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Recent West End theatre includes *Festen* and extensive TV credits include *Life Without George* and Dennis Potter's *Blackeyes*.

PARTICIPANTS: £19.50

Sarah Hughes
TV Drama Castings
June 19

14.00-17.30

Course: PA2

A chance to talk about how TV auditions work, and how to make them work better. We will look at some typical TV drama scenes. Participants will be filmed and then we will watch the scenes back and discuss in the class. We will talk about TV drama castings and how best to prepare for them, and how to overcome the "blocks" that sometimes prevent us from doing our best on the day.

• Sarah Hughes has been Alan Ayckbourn's casting director for the last 15 years, casting all Alan's productions at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, and for the West End, the National Theatre and in America. She also casts productions for all other directors at the Stephen Joseph Theatre. She has worked part-time in the Entertainment department of the BBC for the last 6 years, where recent shows include *Love Soup*, *Pulling* and *Bewitched*. She also occasionally freelances for other theatres and has cast a number of commercials.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

OBSERVERS: £10

CASTING

Simone Reynolds and Paul Miller

Auditions

June 9, 10.30-17.30, June 10, 12.30-17.30

June 11, 12, 10.30-17.30

Course: CA1

A comprehensive 4-day workshop on the preparation, presentation and acting techniques necessary for the successful audition. Looking at speeches and scenes from both classic and new work, this unique course covers film, television and theatre auditions and is led by a director and casting director. We will address various typical situations you might face and examine ways of approaching them with confidence.

• Paul Miller's work for the National Theatre includes *Baby Girl/DNA/The Miracle*, *The Enchantment* and *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads*. He has also directed at the Bush, Hampstead, the Royal Court, Soho, the Menier, the Arcola, Sheffield Crucible and in the West End.

• Simone Reynolds began her career at the Royal Court Theatre and worked there with Lindsay Anderson, Max Stafford-Clark, Peter Gill, David Hare, Samuel Beckett and John Osborne. Her credits include *Chariots of Fire*, *The Long Good Friday*, *The Vicar of Dibley* and *The Politician's Wife*. Simone also regularly casts for *The Bill*.

PARTICIPANTS: £120

Kelly Valentine Hendry

Film Casting Q&A

June 12

10.30-13.00

Course: CA2

This session will incorporate a general discussion and Q & A on Film Castings.

• Kelly worked as an associate with Hubbard Casting for over three years on many films including *King Kong*, *United 93* and *The Da Vinci Code*. She then joined Gail Stevens as her associate on *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Defiance*, *High School the Musical 3* and *Slumdog Millionaire*. She is now freelance working on a number of films and TV projects and recently cast *Lesbian Vampire Killers*.

PARTICIPANTS: £14

Kelly Valentine Hendry

On-Camera Auditions

June 12

14.00-17.00

Course: CA3

This session will be an opportunity to get a casting director's opinion on your audition technique. We will film mock auditions and watch them back to understand what the script, casting director and the camera wants from you. We will also look at what often prevents us from doing our best and getting the job.

• Kelly worked as an associate with Hubbard Casting for over three years on many films including *King Kong*, *United 93* and *The Da Vinci Code*. She then joined Gail Stevens as her associate on *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Defiance*, *High School the Musical 3* and *Slumdog Millionaire*. She is now freelance working on a number of films and TV projects and recently cast *Lesbian Vampire Killers*.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

Sarah Hughes

Casting Advice Session

June 19

11.00-13.30

Course: CA4

This session will deal with practical matters - CVs, photos, audition technique and writing letters, as well as looking at the mental blocks that sometimes prevent us from doing our best in auditions.

• Sarah Hughes has been Alan Ayckbourn's casting director for the last 15 years, casting all Alan's productions at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, and for the West End, the National Theatre and in America. She also casts productions for all other directors at the Stephen Joseph Theatre. She has worked part-time in the Entertainment department of the BBC for the last 6 years, where recent shows include *Love Soup*, *Pulling* and *Bewitched*.

PARTICIPANTS: £14

BASIC ACTING

George Pensotti

Reading for the Part

June 8, 11, 15, 18

10.30-13.30

Course: BA1

A course aimed at developing confidence and technical skills needed at many auditions. The first two sessions will cover instinctive responses to given situations that actors could encounter at auditions, how to make the most of these and how to approach working in ensemble groups. The rest of the course will cover reading for specific parts and how to increase your chances at auditions. Extracts from a wide range of modern plays will be tackled including those by Ayckbourn, Pinter, and Miller. Shakespeare will be included too, if requested.

• George's most recent TV credits include *Margaret* for the BBC and *U Be Dead* for ITV. He played Judge Winfield in eight series of Lynda La Plante's *Trial and Retribution* on ITV and his other recent TV credits include *The Rise of Evil* for CBS and *Love Soup* for the BBC.

PARTICIPANTS: £55

PHYSICAL

Alison de Burgh
Fighting with Style

June 23
10.30-17.30

Course: PH1

Are you a Lara, Bruce, or Old Boy? Learn from the legends as Alison de Burgh helps you copy the fighting styles of these movie fighting heroes. Previous combat experience is recommended, but not required. It is not necessary to be a great fighter in order to be able to look like one; so banish your combat fears by becoming a combat legend for a day.

• Since becoming Britain's first ever female fight director Alison has regularly worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, Royal Opera House, and on numerous West End shows; building a reputation and CV which seals her position as one of Britain's top Fight Directors.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

MUSICAL THEATRE

Christopher Holt
The Theatrical Song

June 19
10.30-17.30

Course: MT1

Time and again actors are required to sing songs - whether in musicals or in plays - and they are cast in place of singers. Why is this? This workshop will explore the phenomenon of the actor singing: how to approach song, how to overcome those confidence issues, technically how to deliver the work and crucially, how to dissect and interpret the 'theatrical song'. The day will consist of many exercises - both singing and acting - to show how in many cases the actor is better suited to deliver a song than a formally trained singer. The actor's voice is already trained and the techniques of the spoken voice can be applied to the sung voice. Come along and see how harnessing the emotional availability, truth and versatility of an actor's delivery skills will result in a unique performance. Please bring two learnt songs of differing styles.

• Christopher Holt is a professional singing/voice coach and theatre director. Credits include *The Lion King* (original cast), *Les Miserables*, *CATS*, *The Hired Man* (TMA Award), *Hair*, *The Fix*, *South Pacific* (NT 2005/6), premieres of *Imagine This* (2007), *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*, *Victor Victoria*, *Elephant Man* and *Looking for the Sun*.

PARTICIPANTS: £40

Nina Finburgh and Heather Weir
From Speech into Song

June 26
14.00-17.00

Course: MT2

A workshop aimed at the actor/singer. Bring music for one prepared number. Can we believe what you are singing?

• Nina has coached many of our foremost musical theatre artists.

• Heather is a freelance MD, actor and singer, and a teacher of voice and sung voice in drama schools.

PARTICIPANTS: £25

OBSERVERS: £7.00

ADVICE

Mark Carr

Pain Free Tax Surgery

June 25

14.00-17.00

Course: AD1

Individual free advice and information from qualified certified accountants. Bookkeeping advice, both computerised and manual. How to keep and store your accounting records. Taking the right steps for your tax affairs. What role should the VAT man play in your life? The Pain Free Tax Surgery does not allow for detailed study of individual records and the advice given cannot therefore be comprehensive. Half-hour sessions. If you book an appointment and fail to attend, or do not cancel by noon the previous working day, you will be charged £10.

• Mark Carr and Co. are chartered certified accountants and registered auditors specialising in the entertainment industry.

PARTICIPANTS: £FREE