Accidental Festival 2008

Education Pack

Institute of Contemporary Arts

THE CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

2008 EDUCTATION PACK

Who We Are	1
What Is Performance Arts?	2
Our Mission Statement	3
The Workshops	4
Workshop Topics	5
Competition…	6

WHO WE ARE

Alex Thorpe

Over the years I have been lucky enough to work with many different people within theatre including the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Youth Theatre. Since beginning at Central back in October 2006 I have worked with many different practitioners and in the many different disciplines of theatre, some of these include Punch Drunk (site specific), English National Opera, Rebecca Lenkiewicz (Playwright), Alan Gilmour (Playwright), Won Kim (Corporeal Mime) and Ali Pretty of Kinetika (Carnival) to name a few. My interest in working with young adults stems from my time at school where I had the opportunity to run workshops, showing different styles of theatre and drama that the young people may not have been subjected to at that present time. From then my work with the National Youth Theatre gave me an insight into the role of a Peer Mentor, which is developing all the time and which I would like to develop one day into having my own youth theatre and working with young people of all backgrounds and abilities.

Verana Meneses

After gaining a vocational degree in Dramatic Arts in my native country of Brazil I performed, assistant directed and produced four productions. At Desmond Jones School of Mime and Physical Theatre I explored the body's relationship with the mind as an essential tool for the development of creative thinking. Following this I completed a two year programme at the London International School of Performing Arts, learning a variety of performance styles and techniques, developing my skills in devising and improvisation. It has strengthened my desire to stimulate children and young people's creative potential which can help them to express themselves, think innovatively, meet challenges positively and find imaginative solutions to problems. Clearly creativity brings new perspectives to one's life; it has only been by developing my path as a performer and creator that I've realised my ambition to understand and explore a poetic approach to life, as I feel never has there been such a need for creative thinking as in today's world. Beyond individual development, I believe creativity advances society by allowing one to wonder, question and challenge conventional ways of doing things.

WHAT IS PERFORMANCE ARTS?

Performance Arts is for those who wish the 'make', research, question, and discuss performance. It is for practitioners who are interested in challenging and re-thinking assumptions about the creation and understanding of live performance. It engages with, deconstructs and re-evaluates our theatrical history and looks to its future with an emphasis upon the intercultural and the interdisciplinary. Although you 'learn through the body', the course does not offer a practical training for actors. Instead it offers 'makers' of performance, and Live Art, an opportunity to grasp performance skills that are put into practice for the duration of the programme, and beyond. The programme develops creative leadership, authorship and ownership of your work.

You will investigate the way that performance can shape culture form identity, and have the opportunity to develop preliminary skills across the creative and contextual disciplines of performance practice and interdicipkinary studies, including writing for performance, interactivity, theories of directing, creative producing and entrepreneurship, performance theory and dramaturgy. You will work in a highly collaborative environment, and be expected to undertake a range of roles, challenging your process.

This programme reflects and explores the interchange that has taken place across and between theatre, new writing, performance art. Dance. And digital media and understands the desire for an evolution of experience for both artist and audience. Projects are taught through collaboration with London based and international arts 'companies'. Large scale projects, festivals, classes and performances have been undertaken with the ICA, DreamThinkSpeak and PunchDrunk, among many others – ensuring that you are placed alongside, and learn from, leading practitioners from across the world

Qualifications gained on completeion: ***BA (hons) Theatre Practice***

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Accidental Festival continues to encourage excellence within a myriad performance field, providing a platform for new and eclectic work of the highest quality. The aim of the festival is to share work, provoke discussion, provide education and develop practice through participation.

The festival will explore the ever changing climate of the world stage. We aim to foster the success, heritage and location of the ICA, the home of the Accidental Festival, creating a forum of exchange between the established professional and the emergent creator.

The festival is intended as a meeting place for different disciplines, cultures and performance practices.

As the result of showcasing of artists from both the UK and abroad through a programme affected by our changing culture and community, the festival will provide a vibrant canvas for creativity right in the heart of London.

The Accidental Festival is curated by students of the Performance Arts Pathway, at the Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London.

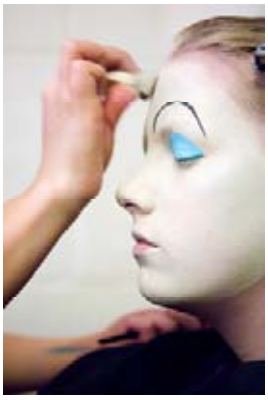
The Workshops

What we require from you…

Depending on what workshop you show a preference to, we will require a suitable room to work in the students, usually this will be an empty space as opposed to a working classroom, unless stated other wise in the workshop pack. It would be useful to have some kind of music system in the room where we can insert MP3 Player (e.g. iPods). Even though at least one member from the Accidental Festival team running the workshop will have under gone an enhanced disclosure CRB check, we ask for there to be at least one responsible member of staff present throughout the duration of the workshop.

Outcome of the workshops…

Our idea is to introduce students to aspects of theatre they may not be familiar with or they need more specialist support with, opening their minds to alternative practices and ideas within theatre or styles and ideas that they haven't come across before. Doing this we would like to think that the students will be left with new ideas when creating their own work whether it would be for their exams in Drama, Theatre Studies or English or if they are looking at moving onto this kind of work after their formal education is complete.



Workshop Topics

Devising – It will enable participants to investigate and explore approaches to creating theatre within a collaborative process through performing, development of dramatic structures and improvisation. This will develop into uses of movement and exercise; characterisation, improvisation and image work

Mime – Through the silent art of mime the participant will explore the journey from thought to action and learn the art of being simultaneously alert and relaxed. You will discover new ways of communicating to each other, the potentiality of your body expression, your creativity and your spatial sense.

Object manipulation/ puppetry – It will introduce the basic steps for the creation of a character and story through the shape, dynamics, and spatial movement of puppets. The workshop will introduce construction and manipulation techniques and develop an understanding of how to engage objects and puppets in performance.

Voice – Here we will be looking at the work of Cicely Berry, Patsy Rosenburg and alternative ideas to explore the basics of the actor's voice as opposed to the singing voice.

Site Specific – Here we will investigate the relationship between the site and creative process. You will have a chance to experiment and survey creatively a space outside a conventional context (a landing, or a staircase, somewhere interesting). The aim is to engage your sense, perceptions and your body in an unusable place in order to break assumptions and renew possibilities as a medium to make theatre.

There is a cross over with the majority of workshops, so if you have an interest in more than one of workshop or would like to look at something specific in that workshop, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Competition

All schools / institutions that undertake a workshop will have the opportunity to enter a competition to perform at the ICA in London.

What we are looking for and what we will offer:

Potential, commitment and enthusiasm.

Two lucky schools/institutions will then have the opportunity to take part in a second workshop, run by the Education Team and associate artists from the festival team, where we will work with the class and look at the potential of them performing at the ICA. At this stage, we would like to see something that the class has created that could be performed in front of a paying audience. This could be a devised piece, a short scene from a play or even a short play in its entirety.

The one group that is chosen to perform at the ICA will undergo more specialist workshops, working on the piece that they have created and will be performing at the ICA. On the 21st May 2007 (the day of performance), the invited school will spend the day at the ICA, doing their get in alongside the Accidental Festival's and ICA's tech team, followed by lunch with the Accidental Festival team before warming up in preparation of their performance in the late afternoon. At least one of the workshops that the chosen group takes part in, will take place at the Central School of Speech and Drama and will include a tour of the building along with the opportunity to ask questions to current students.

Thank you for taking time to read through this pack. The Education Team, along with the rest of the team at the Accidental Festival are very excited about this project and we hope you are too. If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Look forward to working with you soon,

Alexander Thorpe and Verana Meneses

Education Team
Accidental Festival 2008
Contact us:

Email – alex@accidentalfestival.com
Tel – 07856222728
Address – 22 Mandeville Court, Finchley Road, London, NW3 6HB