

Contents

Page	1	Devising
Page	2 - 3	Physical Theatre: <i>Neutral Mask, Character Mask, Movement Improvisation.</i>
Page	4	Ensemble skills
Page	4	Storytelling
Page	5	Dance on screen
Page	6	Technology and Live Performance
Page	6	Media, Culture and Verbatim
Page	7	Performance technique and Self-Discipline
Page	7	Performance Development
Page	8	Show Related Workshops
Page	9	Booking and Contact

Devising

Within Awkward City's devised workshops, participants will be given the chance to create work using various modes of devising strategies.

Awkward city offer a wide range of devising workshops, which are chosen depending on the dynamic of a group. Duration of workshops are negotiable.

Developing their skills both compositionally and collaboratively, as part of the workshop individuals will be placed into small groups, forming a company, within which they will work for the extent of the session.

Whether or not participants have a background in devised theatre, they will gain knowledge and understanding in various techniques for devising and the shaping of their own piece.

- Introduction to devising, definition of terms and looking at examples of devised theatre.
- Strategic planning: using research as stimuli to develop ideas.
- Discussion of individual ideas to form groups, response to ideas and direction. Gaining an understanding of 'team work' and the importance of compromise. Definition of valuable roles within the process.
- Group work: Devise short pieces using a range of ideas, ways of shaping a presenting work to an audience.

At the end of the session there will be a showing of work from each company. This will give each group the chance to offer feedback and constructive criticism. It will also offer the chance for participants to put forward critical reflection on their own work.

Physical Theatre

Because 'Physical Theatre' is such a broad term, this workshop is offered in sections for you to choose from, depending on what is relevant to your establishment or groups needs.

Physical theatre techniques are great for confidence and team building within groups. Our workshops are basic but we do offer a more advanced session if your group requires. Duration of workshops are negotiable.

Neutral Mask

Participants will be led through a series of solo and ensemble exercises exploring the neutral mask.

Developed by Jacques Lecoq, the mask increases awareness of space, physicality and clear expression. We will look at the Natural Elements, Posture and Gesture, Physical Story Telling and States of Tension.

- Introduction to the mask.
- Preparation and rules for the mask.
- Individual, pairs and group work.

Character Mask

We deliver a basic level of the character mask. Throughout the workshop participants will have developed a deeper understanding of their own physical performance, looked at communication and expressive emotion without the use of face or voice, explored archetypes and stereotypes, pastiche through observation of recreating the characteristics of others and performed using masks through improvisations led by a facilitator.

- Introduction to the mask.
- Preparation and rules of the mask
- Individual, pairs and group work.

Movement Improvisation

In this workshop we will explore the different techniques of movement improvisation. Participants will work on gravity, momentum, spatial awareness, agility, giving and receiving weight during movement, controlling falls and lifting.

We will develop basic skills in contact improvisation.

Developed by Steve Paxton, contact improvisation was a technique created to build trust between two dancers; however the technique has evolved and is used as a confidence building technique for any performer.

Ensemble Skills

Throughout this workshop participants will work continually as a full group. The aim of this workshop is to develop a strong awareness of themselves as an equal member of a team, focusing on the importance of physical communication – without the use of the spoken word. Students will develop skill in the following:

- Focus and self-discipline.
- Team work and Equality to create theatre.
- Ensemble Skills.
- Peripheral vision and timing for movement.
- Tension building, silence, momentum and pace.

This workshop is excellent for strengthening any group to produce strong, dramatic work. Duration of workshop is negotiable.

Storytelling

In this workshop, we focus on plot, character and the role of the narrator. Every culture has its stories and legends and these are often told with the magic of the tale in their voices. We use stories, tales, fables and fantasy to help develop expression and gesture to help create the images, with help from the ensemble. Duration of workshop is negotiable.

Dance on Screen - Basic

This workshop is an introduction in to the medium of dance on screen as we are unable to cover all aspects of this medium in such a short space of time. From this introductory workshop, however, participants will gain skills and understanding in the following areas:

- Framing/ Finding natural frames, what are we showing the viewer, what information is/isn't in the frame?
- Identifying an idea – We will discuss with participants the notion of storyboarding shots and sequences, taking into consideration the importance of continuity. Participants will take part in a practical exercise taking on directorial roles and exploring further the idea of framing, continuity and aspects of decision making.
- Participants will be set a Small Crew Practical exercise, taking what they have learned throughout the session on board and putting it into practice. They will produce a One Minute Wonder along with a synopsis which coincides with their short film, which will be presented to the rest of the group at the end of the workshop.

Duration for this workshop must be negotiated.

Technology and Live Performance

Participants will explore ways of using technology within devising and how this can be used in an effective way. Students will; be introduced to performance companies who work within this medium.

Students will look at various ways of presenting work visually and text-based, using microphones, video cameras, projections, sound and pre-recorded text.

Within this workshop, we also offer an exercise, working in small groups to explore genre, movies, composition, choreography and the live and pre-recorded. Duration of workshop is negotiable

Media, Culture and Verbatim

Very much like our 'Technology and Live Performance' workshop, students will explore the medium of film and television to create theatre.

Students will explore popular culture and script writing, using scripts, quotes and texts. Participants will explore the following areas:

Reproduction of phrase, sentence and quote, paraphrasing, abbreviation, grammatical interjections and 'hesitation devices' and how this can affect meaning of how text is delivered.

This workshop is good for students working with creative writing and scripts, it will also provide help with delivery. Duration of workshop is negotiable.

Performance techniques and self-discipline

This workshop addresses important aspects for any performer. Addressing the following areas:

Self-discipline, focus, intuition, presence and physical control, using the body as a tool for physical expression.

We encourage participants to explore and interpret text for delivery, looking at articulation, clarity, projection, prepared reading and character interaction.

Participants are asked to be prepared for a physically challenging session. Duration is negotiable.

Performance development

We can assist in the development of your performances in a range of different contexts, from school plays and youth theatres to adult groups.

We can help bring physical and visual theatre elements to any traditional or non conventional performance, delivering excersises geared to enhance group work, providing inspiration for character development and aid in strengthening work to performance standard.

Show-related workshops

Awkward City offer workshops relating to themes within the performance they present, and strategies used whilst in the process of devising.

By the end of the workshop, participants should have:

- Collaboratively explored themes presented within the performance and through this develop their own creative response.
- Experienced new ways of experimenting with text for performance.
- Focused on their own strengths as a company or artist, what makes you different to everyone else?
- The group will have the chance to play with the many aspects of digital sound, creating their own piece inspired by Awkward City's approach to theatre making and how original sound can positively affect the progression of their own work.

Booking

Awkward City offer workshops for any audience from small institutions to schools and colleges to much larger venues. For sessions in schools, particular attention is paid to the National Curriculum. Our artists are fully CRB checked.

All of our workshops can be tailored around every ability and age. If you would like to book a workshop, or have any inquiries, please get in touch!

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