

The Fool and The King Workshops:

Through movement and play participants will identify their own Fool's and King's to explore the beautiful, ridiculous and poignant conflict of this unlikely alliance. We will work with the fool and The King personally and archetypally.

Meet Your Fool Workshops.

Fooling is a seven stage structure for making improvisations as individuals, pairs and ensemble.

There are various elements from the 'fooling structure of how to use a stage' that can be taught in individual sessions. They are listed below.

The sessions can be tailored to suit any age range - you may feel that some sessions are more suitable as one offs for younger participants, or that you'd be interested in what could be created by following the full course.

Workshop 1:

Getting out of the audience:

How do we get out of the audience with no idea of what we're going to do? Where do we begin?

This section includes:

Facing the audience: how to be warm and engage the audience in the first few seconds.

Making a connection with the audience.

Creating a scene to enter into and listening to what you set up.

In order to make it possible for all performers and the audience to be on the same page and no what is going on the performer will learn to cover five stages

They will learn to:

1. **Commentate**
2. **Demonstrate**
3. **Speculate**
4. **Make a Judgement**
5. **Capitulate (in to the scene)**

In this section the performer discovers how to direct their own imagination and the audience's imagination as one, each putting in 50% to co create a scene.

Workshop 2:

A Play:

This workshop uses the elements discovered in the previous session to create plays and capitulate into them.

When in plays participants are encouraged to look into the room with in the room (that they created using the 5 steps previously learnt).

They are encouraged to play everything that they see with in the room, giving voice to inanimate objects, animals and elements.

Workshop3:

The Principle of Movement First:

This principle allows participants to relax their thinking and to surprise themselves by how creative this makes them.

Thinking first can create plays that are rather staccato and don't have enough feeling, flexibility, surprise, risk and discovery.

This session is led by Chris Murray as he is our movement expert. He uses a variety of techniques he has picked from his physical theatre training as well as fooling to get the participants in to their fool body consciousness.

Workshop 4:

Greek Chorus, Shoaling and Blobbing

During this workshop we will explore what it is like to work as one body by:

Blobbing Can a group of individuals give up being individual to play one owl or one storm cloud or one tea cup? Can that teacup speak as one? What does it add to the scene?

Shoaling is a device for working in ensemble. Participants work together following who ever is at the front of the group using **periphery vision**.

As the group turns and some body else is at the front, the leader has to learn to relinquish control and become a follower.

Shoaling is a good tool to develop **group consciousness** and can also be used to **change the dynamic of a scene** in **improvised or devised** work as well as to make a strong **impression when working in street Theatre**.

Workshop 5:

The Play:

In this workshop participants will look at the bigger things that they perceive may be influencing the scenes and characters within them. They will discover that they can create and embody these influences. This work is related to **The Gods in Ancient Greek Theatre**.

Participants can explore moving between The Play and A Play to explore the relationship between these bigger aspects/ influences and the people within the scenes.

Workshop 6:

3 Speeds on the stage.

The 3 Speeds on the stage, help to create depth of field, time, atmospheres and they allow the play to settle.

At the front of the stage (in Play) the performer is like the audiences mind and so they operate at a quick '**street speed**'. They meet with and play out the audiences speculations and judgements.

In the middle of the stage (in A Play) The performers move slightly slower allowing the audience and other performers to **see what they see**.

At the back of the stage (in The Play) Performers are taking on aspects of vast size and so they are to learn how to be Vast. To be Vast they need to sow right down.

Workshop 7:

Repertory Company:

Over the course of working together we will discover various recurring characteristics aspects that each performer returns to again and again. We will identify these aspects and create them more fully into characters, with their own set of voices, movement, sayings, and mime things they carry around with them. (This work is rooted in **Commedia del' Arte**).

We will look at how these characters all interact.
What the flip side of these characters are.
What runs them archetypally.

If we had a long time to work on this session we could bring out several characters in each participants repertory company.

Workshop 8:

Lazzi:

Lazzi is an Italian word for 'Jokes' or 'Tricks'. It is a device used in Commedia del' Arte in which the audience see the characters interrelating.

Lazzi where used as 'fail safe' set pieces that could be fit into various different scenarios within an improvisation.

They reveal who out of the characters is quick witted, gullible, run by the Trickster, Who is of a high status, low status, who is run by envy, greed, innocence etc.

This session will draw upon and exaggerate aspects from the repertory company that we developed in the previous session to create bizarre and funny set pieces that reveal something about the foolishness of being human.

Each aspect covered in each workshop could take months to develop fully. What we hope to do is offer the participants the tools to develop as improvisors, to collaborate and devise work and to create plays.

We can offer a workshop programme that is aimed towards an informal sharing or a full show case.

Chris and I are both able to create costumes and could run sessions in costume making too if we were heading towards a more official showcase.