

Gulliver's Travels

Workshop Programme

by Familia de la Noche



Puppet School
Sound School
Story School
Bespoke Workshops



ADELAIDE FRINGE
15 FEBRUARY - 17 MARCH 2019

Principal Partner



Puppet School

A simple, fun and exciting introduction to puppetry focussing on the techniques used in Gulliver's Travels

Key Skills:

- Learning to work with Focus
- Creating a Character
- Teamwork
- Critical Analysis

Techniques:

- Table Top Puppetry
- Focus and Breath
- Object Manipulation
- Hand/Eye Coordination

Structure:

Warm-up:

This workshop begins with a warm-up session focussed on developing concentration and teamwork with facilitator lead games and exercises. These aim to relax your students and to develop an environment where they can experiment and play.

Body of Workshop:

The group is introduced to a 3 person table top puppet character - Rodney. We will have a chance to manipulate him and will be guided through actions by the rest of the group.

The participants then make their own version of Rodney out of paper, they will create their own puppet characters and these characters will interact with each other to create short scenes. We will introduce participants to basic puppetry techniques of focus and breath to help them manipulate their characters.

We then move onto object manipulation and everyone creates a character by manipulating an object rather than a purpose built puppet. In groups students will create short narratives where 3 or more of these characters interact, and which comes to a dramatically satisfying conclusion.

Showback:

Everyone will perform their object manipulation piece for the rest of the group. Throughout the workshop and after the showback of their pieces students will have a chance to ask questions and give their feedback on the techniques

that they have tried, the pieces they have seen or the ways in which they may be able to use these techniques in the future.



Sound School

Sound is a very important part of the creation of Gulliver's Travels. In this workshop we look at creating sound effects, soundscapes, voiceovers and simple editing techniques.

Key Skills:

- Experimenting with Sound
- Voiceover
- Teamwork
- The Science of sound

Techniques:

- Foley techniques
- Voice and breath
- Creating layered soundscapes
- Choral sound
- Basic sound editing using Audacity



Warm Up:

We start the session with a vocal and physical warm up to get our participants in the mood to be creative. We will focus on teamworking and voice exercises to get everyone ready to experiment and play

Body of Workshop:

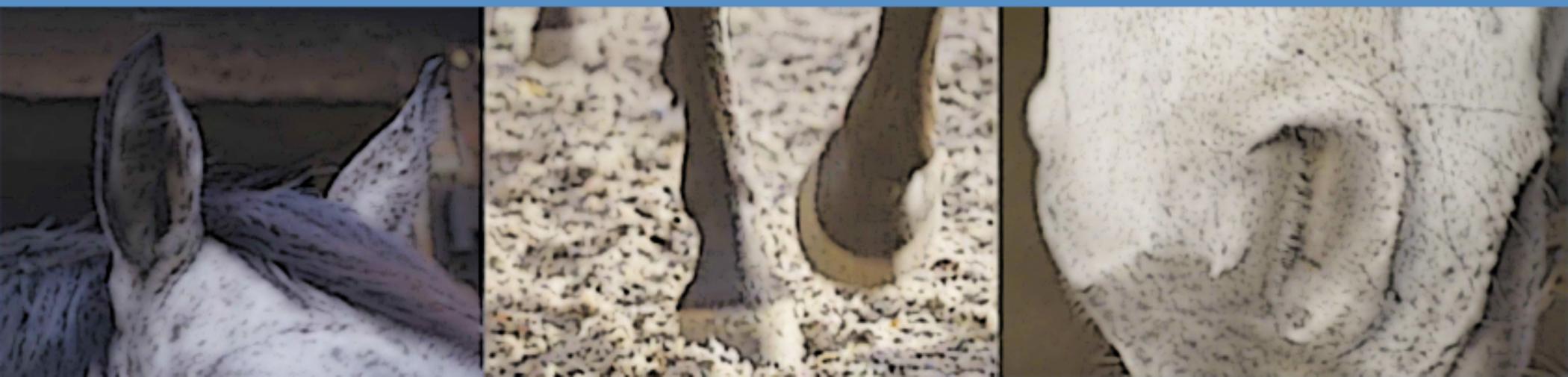
We begin by thinking about the role of sound in a production and what it can do for the audience. We listen to some soundscapes from Gulliver's Travels. What do they conjure up in the imagination? Does they sound like places, or times or even temperatures? We break down some of the soundscapes into individual sounds – are some of them surprising? How do they work when they are layered.

We choose a scenario that we want to create a soundscape for. In groups we start thinking about the individual sounds you might find in that scenario. Using a pile of junk, the participants start experimenting to try and create the sounds from the scenario. We record these sounds

Using the same scenario we think about any sounds we can make using voice, particularly group voice. We create these group choral sounds and record them. We then think about voiceover and the effect this can have. We choose some volunteers to record a line of text to apply to our scenario. We record different voices, change breath, tone and speed and see the effect

Showback:

We bring everything together and look at the sounds that we have made on Audacity (free and freely available sound editing software). We look at the form of the waves and how we can manipulate them. We put everything together and play our soundscape to the group.



Story School

An introduction to making stories. What techniques do we use to break down and adapt stories and how to make them as exciting as possible.

Key Skills:

- Breaking down a story into themes
- Creating a world looking at place, time, weather
- Improvisation skills and generosity
- Teamwork
- Critical Appraisal of their own work and others

Techniques:

- Narration
- Improvisation
- Actors Etiquette
- Tableau
- Physical Gesture
- Non – Verbal Communication
- Space/Time Work



Structure:

We begin our workshops with a full vocal and physical warm-up to get your students ready to work. The warm-up for this workshop includes articulation exercises and concentration exercises. These games are designed to relax students, start them working as a team and to establish an atmosphere where they are comfortable using their bodies and thinking on their feet.

Body of Workshop:

We begin working as whole group, exploring improvisation. We particularly focus on the importance in improvisation of co-operation and generosity – actor's etiquette.

We move on to look at the structure of stories. What makes a good story? Are there common themes. We use our story structures to create random mash up movie trailers.

We then look at condensing stories. What makes the essence of a story? We split into groups and take well known stories and break them down into the three essential snapshots that make that story recognisable. We then look at what happens when we twist one of those snapshots – what happens to the story then?

Show Back:

Using all of the techniques we've learned the participants make their own version of a well known story with a twist to showback to the rest of the group. We analyse together which bits worked and which didn't? Which techniques were useful and why?

Bespoke Workshops

We are always happy to make a workshop programme just for you. There are a few examples of what we can do below but get in touch with your requirements and we will create something special.

Make your own fairytale – Full Day Workshop

Ever thought that the end of Cinderella was a bit lame? Or that the Three Little Pigs should have ended up as pork chops? This full day workshop take a look inside the way that stories work, explores methods of breaking down narratives and giving age old tales a new life. We look at methods of devising, exploring characters and the day culminates in the creation and performance of a new fairytale to knock Puss in Boots socks off.

Clown School – 2 hour workshop

An introduction to embracing your inner silly. This workshop looks at different styles of clowning, working physically and telling stories without words. We encourage risk taking and team work to help students discover their clown. Pratt fall experience and advantage but not obligatory

Lets get physical – 2 hour workshop

This workshop looks at ways to tell stories without words and create larger than life characters using just your body. We use elements of clowning, contact improvisation and character work to create extraordinary creatures, astonishing personalities and amazing places while no one utters a word.

Making it up as you go along – Half day workshop

That's what devised theatre is isn't it? Although it does help if you have a few techniques to help you along the way. We look at Familia's method of devising - ways to break down a story and build it back up again in a new way. We use improvisation games, movement, clowning and storytelling to give participants a tool kit for making their own devised pieces.



Testimonials

Familia de la Noche have a real gift for working with young people by empowering them and enabling them to fulfil their potential - It was for these reasons I chose to work with them on the National Youth Theatre's Shakespeare in the Square. Most important, however, is their infectious enthusiasm and genuine passion for theatre.

Amanda Hill, National Youth Theatre

The show was wonderful, the setting was a strong concept that highlighted the themes of the show. The cast all seemed to grasp the ideas of the play and they really understood the emotions of the character they were playing

Dominic Fitch, National Schools Shakespeare Festival

Familia de la Noche have been an incredible support to our students through their performances and accompanying workshops. Their performances are engaging, insightful and always truly innovative. Consistently their performances are a springboard for classroom based discussion and practical exercises across many performance disciplines such as physical theatre, storytelling, devising and design. The company always go above and beyond to look for ways of giving additional support including giving feedback on practical work for assessment. Our department are truly grateful for the investment that they make in our students and we can't recommend them enough.

Bryony Evett-Hackford Drama Lecturer



Our pupils enjoyed working with the company, who are afforded them the opportunity to experiment theatrically and to devise work in a safe and happy environment. Pupils showed increased confidence and relished the opportunity to explore a new world of theatre through puppet making, clowning and creating their own immersive performance. The company's distinct style is to create beautiful and affecting theatre and we have seen this first hand in the work created with the pupils this year after the our project had finished.

Elen Thomas, Head of Drama

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“I learned about confidence, friendship, social skills, I changed in attitude (a lot!). It changed the way I am around people”

Louise, 13

“You really helped me gain more confidence and to use body language to act better”

Malcolm, Age 14

“Your work was revolutionary”

Buwa, Age 14



Workshop Requirements

Space

Our workshops can be held at your school or venue.

Puppet School and Story School need a clear space with enough room to move around.

Sound School can take place in a classroom environment.

Clothing

Wear comfortable clothing that you can easily move about it

Participants

We can work with groups of between 10 and 24 participants. Workshops are pitched to the level and experience of your group.

Power

We need to be able to plug in a laptop for all of our workshops. In Sound School a projection screen / interactive whiteboard is an advantage but not necessary.

Resources

We will provide a teacher resource pack that goes alongside the show and workshops.

We are also happy to hold Q&A sessions or answer email questions from your students about the show and what we do.

Child Protection

All our facilitators are DBS checked in the UK. We can provide a copy of our Child Protection Policy on request

Contact

To book a workshop you can contact either Becca or Joanne

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