

theatre

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THE FANTASIST

theatreeducation pack



education

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who we are

Theatre Témoin is an international physical theatre ensemble dedicated to the creation of new works which are daring, engaging, and fun. Since our founding in 2007 we have created work in the U.K., France, The USA, Rwanda, and Mexico on pressing contemporary social themes.

All of our company members are London-based theatre artists with a passion for ensemble-created body-based theatre. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, including storytelling, Lecoq pedagogy, puppetry and juggling. All are also experienced workshop facilitators, having worked with both children and adults of all ages.

Our pieces have been recognized in both the UK and abroad as inventive, moving, and timely.

*“Highly physical, inventive and engaging, this is exciting new work with a strong central concept that takes mythic inspiration to explore post traumatic stress to great effect.” ******

~ Three Weeks, UK (On Nobody’s Home)

*“An exquisite storytelling piece...simply enchanting...Combining the evocative language of music, the use of masks, dance and contemporary theatre, this young company creates an intense and vibrant show, able to captivate audiences of all ages and nationalities.” *****

~ Remotegoat, UK (On Jukai)

what we do

Theatre Témoin tours performances to theatres, schools, and universities in the UK and abroad. As part of our tours we run concurrent workshops—both general master classes in theatre techniques, as well as specific workshops tailored to the themes of the piece we are touring.

Our strong background in ensemble-created, devised theatre means that our workshops link well with current GCSE, and AS/A2. All of our workshops are designed to give students a strong understanding of current theatrical vocabularies, while also encouraging them to push the definition of “theatre” beyond its current conventions.

Témoin also runs workshops and (depending on the suitability of the current touring piece) performances for KS3. These are suitable for Arts Enrichment days or as extracurricular opportunities.

“We enjoyed you immensely here!”

~ Adrian Giurgea (Director of Theatre, Colgate University)

“This was one of the most exciting and challenging events we sponsored this year. Our students were inspired and enthralled. We would bring them back in a heartbeat!”

~ Nora Hussey (Chair, Theatre Studies, Wellesley College)

the fantasist

Alone in her room Louise sleeplessly searches for inspiration and purpose. A surprise visitor pulls her into a dance of destruction - through excitement and creativity towards horror and futility. Can Louise break the cycle of ups and downs or will she become just another puppet in the story of her life?...

The Fantasist is a zany and sensitive exploration of an artist's experience of bipolar disorder. Performed by an international cast, Theatre Témoin uses an exciting blend of puppetry, clowning, physical theatre, and original music to shed new light on an artist's internal struggle against the swirl of extreme moods.

Suitable for audiences 14+, the piece explores urban isolation and mental illness, and has been created in collaboration with Mental Health Service Users and their families. Témoin offers a post-show discussion and workshops designed to help students unpack and respond to the mental health themes in the play.

The Fantasist is touring to schools from late March 2012 and is also running at The Blue Elephant Theatre from 28th February until 17th March (Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7.30pm, running time 1 hour.)

School Special Offer: buy 9 tickets, get the 10th free. Please contact Cat cat@theatremoin.com for details.

*"Touching, sensitive, and morbidly funny."****
~ Fringe Review (Brighton, UK)*

THE ARGUS: Best dance & physical on offer at the fringe

exam specifications

Témoin's workshops fit within many specifications (see below). If you have questions about which workshops would best suit your unit, contact our Education Officer at cat@theatretemoin.com.

Edexcel BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts

(Units 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24, 28, 31, 32, 33, 50)

Edexcel GCSE Drama

(Units 1, 2, 3)

Edexcel GCE AS/A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

(Units 1, 2, 3)

AQA GCSE Drama

(Units 1 (A, C), 2 (1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11))

AQA AS/A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

(Units 1, 2, 4)

OCR GCSE Drama

(Units A581, A582, A583)

OCR AS/A Level Performance Studies

(Units G401, G404)

workshop descriptions

BESPOKE WORKSHOPS LINKED TO THE TOURING PRODUCTION

Puppetry in Performance*

Puppets have a magical connection to an audience and an ability to communicate things which actors cannot. In this session we explore the exciting possibilities of puppetry, giving students the basic technical skills to animate objects, socks and table-top puppets. Using games and devising techniques students work individually and in groups to push the boundaries of theatrical storytelling. Watch them defy gravity, swim on dry land or slow down time, all through puppets.

Puppet Design and Construction*

Using simple materials (objects, paper and foam) students will build their own puppets from scratch - from concept to design to construction. We'll end with a celebratory parade of short performances from our newly created masterpieces!

** while each is great on its own, we highly recommend booking the workshops 'Puppet Design and Construction' and 'Puppetry in Performance' in tandem!*

The Fantacist – Performance Response Workshop

In this workshop students will learn how to dissect a piece of performance and make their own critical and evaluative judgements. Looking at language, structure, characterisation, context and production values students will consider the difference between intended interpretation and received communication and use this new vocabulary to write critical reviews of Témoin's work.

Putting Words in Mouths – Writing the “Other”

Here students explore the techniques that writers and devisors can employ when creating narratives that contain socially sensitive themes—themes they may or may not have direct experience with. Students look at conducting research, workshopping, interviewing, and transposition. We also discuss the ethics of creative storytelling, asking questions about the role and responsibilities of artists and the relationship between creative interpretation and factual integrity. This workshop culminates in the creation of personal monologues written from another classmate’s perspective.

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS OFFERED

Devising

What does it mean to create theatre, literally, ‘from scratch’? Working from a range of stimuli—text, objects, stories, themes, images, music, anecdotes—we will help students to create their very own short pieces of theatre. This workshop can develop themes from the play, or be tailored to ideas you are already exploring in class.

Physical Theatre

What does a rubber band have to teach us about Hamlet’s soliloquies? Can we create a melodrama by observing an egg frying? Or write a comedy based upon the way a crumpled piece of paper expands? What IS physical theatre, anyway? This workshop will address all of these questions... and more.

Storytelling

Company members Cat Gerrard and Julia Yevnine regularly perform as storytellers in schools and at venues and festivals around London. They can perform up to four 1 hour sessions (no student limit per session).

Cat tells folk and fairy tales from around the world, with a particular interest in the frolicsome Italian tales of Calvino and the African trickster tales. Mixing in various things, such as juggling, bicycles and origami, Cat has a playful, physical style. She can develop material for specific sessions as required.

Julia Yevnine specialises in telling folk tales in her mother tongue: French. With a physical, comic style she is understood by non-French speakers and French speakers alike! Her stories are fantastic for groups learning the language from the age of 11 upwards. For more information on either teller please contact Cat cat@theatremoin.com

Juggling

A great party trick which also builds concentration, listening and co-ordination (and is great fun): juggling! Students learn how to juggle with 1, 2 and 3 balls, do some tricks and then put it all together in their own little sequence.

Quick! Change!

Ever had one of those days where you just wanted to hide from yourself? How about chase yourself? Or marry yourself? Or hold yourself up in a stick-up? All of this is possible in the zany world of quickchange, where 2 to 3 actors can play up to 9 different characters. We'll go over body, voice, writing, set-manipulation, and costuming techniques in this fast-paced and hilarious workshop.

pricing and booking

Workshops

Each workshop can be delivered in 2 hours, 5 hours, or as a project of 12 hours. Price for a 2-hour workshop is £250; and for a 5-hour workshop is £400 (or £450 if split over 2 days). Prices for projects are negotiable. These prices are for 2 facilitators (30 students). Please contact us to discuss pricing for larger groups with more facilitators.

There is an additional materials fee of £1 per student for the *Mask Making* and *Puppet Design and Construction* workshops.

Performances

Stand-alone performances of *The Fantasist* (with free post-show discussion) are £900.

Storytelling performances are £250 for one storyteller for up to 4 x 1 hour sessions (no student limit per session).

Packages

Special package deals are available when you book multiple workshops, performances, or a simultaneous performance and workshop. Contact us with your specific booking needs.

Making your booking

Bookings can be made at any point in the year. We aim to schedule workshops 1 month and performances 3 months in advance, but are sometimes able to make short notice bookings.

Please contact Cat, our Education Officer for bookings at:

E: cat@theatremoin.com

T: +44 (0)7967 190 221

more info at: www.theatremoin.com