

From Commedia dell'Arte to Goldoni. The birth and the growth of Modern Theater

A 50 hours workshop in 7 days for actors:
Language: English

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A picture from the Commedia dell'Arte workshop in 2015

WHAT IS COMMEDIA dell'ARTE:

Commedia dell'arte is more than just a typical Italian genre of theatre. It represents the dawn of western modern theatre. All of the great 20th century acting teachers exalted its value for actors' training. Working on plot, pantomime, comic techniques and the study of universal "types" through the use of masks are invaluable elements of a modern actor's training. Far from being just an historical art form, through the complexity of its techniques, Commedia dell'arte provides an excellent introduction

to any western theatrical genre from the most ancient and folkloristic to the most modern and refined.

WHO WAS CARLO GOLDONI?

Carlo Goldoni is widely considered one of the greatest Italian playwright and the essential bridge between Commedia dell'Arte and the Modern Theater. After the composition of several *scenarios*, Goldoni felt the need of a new form of performance, more conform to his times. He developed the nature of Commedia, abolishing most of its improvisational aspects, as the vulgarity, the non-realistic elements, some of the masks and all the ridiculous stock rules. Instead of a pure comedy, he brought on the stage some new elements like humor, realism and humanized characterization in everyday life.

WHY DO WE STUDY COMMEDIA and GOLDONI?

This workshop, through a detailed work on the Commedia dell'Arte techniques, will show the actors how to direct their own character construction development and how to use the maximum of their skills with control and a lot of fun.

Rehearsing and tasting Goldoni is a great opportunity for actors who want to bring the Commedia dell'Arte skills into a modern and psychologically deeper shape.

This workshop aims to reach the mind and sensibility of the Modern Theater passing through the unique physical experience given by the study of Commedia's characters.

An overall program:

- From day FIRST to day SIXTH of workshop: 8 hrs / each day with an intermission of one hour. In the first part of the day we will study the rules, the games and the stock characters of Commedia. In the second part we will analyze and rehearse the scenes of Goldoni's plays.
- LAST day of workshop: 4 hrs in the morning and a *final presentation* of the scenes we will rehearse during our workshop.

A detailed program

Day 1

- Presentation of the genre Commedia dell'Arte: an historical path
- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- From the word to the body: how to find a character of commedia dell'arte?
- Introduction about Goldoni and his revolutionary ideas
- Opinion and scenes from one of his play

Day 2

- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- The stage of Commedia dell'Arte and its rules;
- The construction of stock characters: The Lovers – *Amorosi*
- The characters in situation (*repertoire development*); the lazzo.
- Rehearsing Goldonis scenes

Day 3

- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- The scenario (*canovaccio*);
- The construction of stock characters: The Servants – *Servi* (*Zanni, Arlecchino, Brighella and Colombina*);
- From the body to the mask of Commedia dell'arte.
- Rehearsing Goldonis scenes

Day 4

- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- The construction of stock characters: The Elders – *Vecchi* (*Dottore and Pantalone*)
- The use of the masks
- The stock characters talk about “The Fan”

- Rehearsing Goldonis scenes

Day 5

- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- The construction of stock characters: *The Captain – Capitano*
- The stock characters talk about “The Fan”
- *Rehearsing Goldonis scenes*

Day 6

- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- Recapping all the stock characters
- The stock characters talk about “The Fan”
- Rehearsing Goldonis scenes

Day 7

- Training: some elements of mime (Decroux technique) applied to Commedia dell'Arte
- Overall Rehearsal
- *Parata and Final Presentation of the scenes from Goldoni and from the Commedia dell'Arte scenarios.*