

Workshop: Get Engaged

When we talk about an “engaging performance”, it’s likely that what we have seen is an “engaged performance”. The actors were committed to the moment, they believed in their characters, and they invested in the dialogue. These things allow the audience in turn to suspend their disbelief and engage with the story unfolding on the stage.

Description

This workshop focuses on engagement — with the present moment, our scene partner and our self. By engaging in this way, we create theatre that engages the audience. As an added side benefit, the improvisation becomes easier and many common problems disappear.

An engaged performer is able to respond naturally without the need to “invent”. The character portrayed in this way looks like a real person, because the performer feels like a real person. An engaged actor does not need to “act”, they get to “be”.

Many of the problem improvisers experience, come out of fear, but a truly engaged performer plays without fear, because they no longer hear the voice of doubt. Vocal projection, movement, and stagecraft, all improve.

What You Will Learn

Engaging in the moment

When playing out a scene, we can engage with this present moment in time, in this place. Investing in that reality, we find that we “know” what it is we need to do and say at the moment we need to do or say it. Our physical work becomes clearer and more concise, and it helps our character to be more true-to-life and consistent.

Engaging with your scene partner

Tuning into your scene partner is so important. They are your collaborator, and it is through them that you will find much of your inspiration. We will work on techniques that highlight just what a valuable asset they are.

Engaging with your self

You are a rich treasure trove of lived experience. You will learn ways to tune into your body and your mind. They are there to help you. By learning to listen, wholly to them, your improv will improve.

Engaging with meaning

Giving *meaning* to the things that happen on stage makes our performance feel more like a well-written work. We will look at how we can incorporate meaning into our improvisation.

Engaging the audience

Your performance does not exist in a vacuum. Whilst we want to deeply engage in the imagined moment, we must not forget that we have an audience. We will look at the importance of this relationship, and techniques to serve and enhance the audience experience.

Experience Level

Any.

The techniques taught in this workshop can be adjusted to cater to any level of experience. These skills of engagement will provide newer improvisers with an invaluable foundation. Experienced improvisers will find that this approach can inject new vitality into their on-stage experience. Regardless of the level, or mix of levels, please let me know in advance, so that I can adjust accordingly.

Participants

Number of participants: 6 to 16

Workshop Length

3 hours to a full day

A 3 hour workshop provides a good introduction to engagement. A longer workshop allows us to go much deeper.

Workshop Requirements

No specific requirements for the space.

Performance

This workshop provides a range of skills that will enhance any improvised show.

The performers will come out of this work feeling highly connected and invigorated. It's a great time to throw them on stage! If you want to include a show as part of the programming, please let me know, and we can discuss different options.