

DeOrio Workshop Roster

Devised Character Development (2-3hrs)

Using Laban's eight basic efforts and Michael Chekhov's imagery work, students will embark on a journey of character development focused in the body. We will discuss character perspective and the importance of full embodiment. Students will improvise conversations and interactions, crafting scenes and finding balance between the characters internal life and external drives.

*Mask Performance (2-3hr) *time is dependant on group size*

In this workshop students will train with full face emotion masks, learning mask performance technique and carriage. All students will be asked to devise a physical character based on the mask of their choice. We will discuss concepts of countermask, the zero and communication through the mask. This workshop will include exploration in non-verbal storytelling and physical emotiveness.

*Cabaret: The Do's and Don'ts of Building an Act (5-8hrs) *time is dependant on group size*

Travel through time with professor Cleo DeOrio of Dell'Arte International as we discuss cabaret acts from the Vaudeville era to today. In this five hour workshop we will discuss the history of cabaret and what it means to build an act, why some acts work and some don't, and the importance of knowing your audience. This workshop is rooted in devising and will require that students devise an act in solo or small groups. Time will be allotted for creation, feedback and discussion. Each act will receive individual coaching from Cleo. This workshop can be accompanied by an optional cabaret performance for the public or peers.

Slapstick: Slips, Trips, Slaps and Falls (3-4hrs)

In this lab style workshop, we will focus on the introductory skills that make up comedic Slips, Trips, Slaps and Falls. Cleo DeOrio, of Dell'Arte International, will guide you through exercises exploring the intersection between acrobatic technique and character perspective, finding the ultimate comedic combination. This workshop will discuss clown logic and perspective, and what it means to truly be for the audience. Discover the importance of timing and rhythm as you build your own routine of basic comic stunts.

The following can be combined as any 2 or all 3 to build a multi-day series. They can also stand alone as individual workshops.

Chorus: The Voice and Movement of Greek Tragedy (3 hrs)

In this workshop students will be led through a series of voice and movement exercises to tap into the “hivemind” of the chorus. Using text from Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, we will explore what it means to be an individual in the crowd. Students will be asked to memorize a section of text before the workshop begins and will physicalize the text into a solo phrase. Together with professor Cleo DeOrio, the students will create a devised movement piece rooted in flocking and the polarity between expansion and contraction. What does it mean to take space as part of the whole?

Partnering: The Rise and Fall (3hrs)

Get ready to jump into this high intensity partnering workshop where we will explore weight sharing, non-verbal partner connection and trust; both of the self and of others. Using various techniques such as somatic movement, contact improv, modern dance and Chekhov technique, Cleo will have you flying in no time. This workshop will focus on special relationships, partner awareness, and the use of momentum. We will also discuss consent and proper partnering practices. Students will be asked to base and fly, unless previously discussed with the instructor.

*Please wear movement clothes and bring water.

The Dynamic Form: Modern Dance for Actors (3hrs)

Explore momentum, release and full body breath in this intensive movement workshop. Here we will examine the use and understanding of each individual’s kinesphere, working toward the optimization of expansion, contraction and full body movement sequencing. Using Release Floor Method, Alexander Technique, Horton Technique and the concept of Tenserity, students will broaden their understanding of the importance of movement quality, physical investment and rhythm.

*Please wear comfortable clothing and bring water.