WORKSHOP SYNOPSES

Character in Costume (Years 3 & 4)  Tutor: Imogen Ross
Do you like clowning around and doing silly walks? Do you want to see how a 'sad clown' works and feel the power of a mask? Using a range of different clothing accessories, hats, props and masks, theatre designer Imogen Ross will use Commedia dell’Arte and French clown techniques to help young performers build upon their own physicality and develop a distinct body language through costume and mask. Students will play with a wide range of costumes and body shapes, exploring different characterisation possibilities and create interactive vignettes/scenes together, learning to shift their physical responses between comedy and tragedy. **Please Note:** Students are asked to bring along a clean pair of socks, 2-3 pairs of shoes (different styles please) and 1-2 hats/scarves/beanies (different styles) to the workshop for their own use. The Arts Unit will be providing a range of costumes to play with, but it is a requirement that students wear their own headwear during the workshop. It is recommended that students bring a beanie or a headscarf to wear, so that costume hats and helmets can be easily worn over the top. Please let The Arts Unit know if there are any physical limitations or needs that Imogen needs to factor in, so she can ensure all students have equal access to costumes on the day.

Improvisation & Devising (Years 5 & 6)  Tutor: Heather Campbell
Improvisation is not only a lot of fun it is also an essential skill for any performer. It develops your ability to think on your feet, commit to imagined circumstances and collaborate with others. In this workshop we will address the core principles of improvisation - such as naming, offers, extending and investigate what makes an improvisation work for both performers and audience alike. We will explore both short and long-form improvisation, using our learned technique to make imaginative and physically interesting devised scenes, as well as exploring the use of improvisation in sustaining character and how it can be used to enrich text-based work.

Hip Hop Drama (Years 7-10)  Tutor: Candy Bowers
For lovers of poetry, music theatre and drama this is a fun and interactive workshop with a funky twist. Think Shakespeare meets Missy Elliot as Candy B mixes drama and hip hop exercises to develop students’ expressive skills. Technical aspects such as voice, rhythm and physicality are explored alongside character and comedy.

Movement (Years 7-12)  Tutor: Kate Walder
This workshop will explore the body as a starting point for theatre-making, the tools of physical theatre and the companies that use them. Students will be guided through the principles of the form; awakening and energising the body, developing presence and a sensitivity of movement, creating meaning and drama through tension, tempo, rhythm, fixed points, space and metaphor and working as an ensemble. Students will be shown a range of techniques for group devising, including creative transitions and different stimuli such as text, music and objects. We will look at UK based companies Theatre du Complicite and Frantic Assembly as examples of sophisticated, dynamic and original physical theatre.

Writing Plays & Monologues (Years 9-11)  Tutor: Paul Gardiner
This course will take students through a process of writing a monologue for performance. Beginning with exploring the purpose(s) and qualities of an effective performance, students will learn how to turn their ideas into a solo piece. The course will take students through the processes of creating a character, improvising text, working with subtext, symbol and motif, and structuring ideas to take the audience on a complete theatrical journey. It will be useful for students who wish to create their own character as well as students adapting other texts (prose, autobiography, poetry) into a theatrical piece. It will develop students’ skills in dramatic and written improvisation, creating pieces through a combination of written and workshop tasks, to ensure students create their intended audience experience.
Script Interpretation & Acting (Years 10-12)  
Tutor: Claire Pasvolsky

Though written in 1836, "Woyzeck" is often considered to be the first truly "modern" play. It’s story of a soldier driven mad by inhuman military discipline and acute social depravation is told in splintered dialogue and jagged episodes which are as stunning today as they would have been when the play was first staged in 1913. In this dynamic workshop, writer/director Claire Pasvolsky will workshop her new adaptation of Buchner’s classic. Performers will need to wear comfortable clothing as a lot of movement will be required in order to embody the text and the characters. Actors are also asked to bring 5 items of clothing to aid their characterisation, ie shoes, hats, blazers, wigs etc anything that could help define a character. Actors will begin with dynamic physical warm ups, which will then quickly begin to incorporate the text.

Voice & Accents (Years 10-12)  
Tutor: Nick Curnow

This fun and involved class will take you through the process of understanding your own voice, what drives it and how it works, and the sounds you use to be understood, then gives you the tools you need to be able to "shift gears" and speak in another accent for performance. Starting with the thought you have to express, discovering the breath and encountering the sounds you articulate. From there we'll compare your own accent to Standard British and Standard American, exploring both scenes and monologues.

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