

Tower Taster Workshops



1) Introductory Vocal Workshop

Day: Thursday 18th February

Time: 6:45pm-9:45pm with a break

Venue: Bridewell Institute

Cost: £5

Aim

To give people an awareness of the importance of these areas of the voice and safe vocal use, plus suggestions for improving vocal use going forward.

When an actor is asked to “speak louder” it may be perceived as a volume problem but actually may be due to other factors such as poor articulation or lack of resonance in the voice.

Areas covered

- a) Breath, resonance, pitch, articulation and its application to text.
- b) How a relaxed and flexible body adds to your vocal effectiveness

Delegates

Actors and directors of all levels of experience

Tutor

Julia Collier trained at Central School of Speech and Drama and taught voice at Mountview, LAMDA and Guildhall.

2) Directing Workshop

From competent line-reading to compelling storytelling

Day: Saturday 6th March

Time: 10am-5pm with a break

Venue: Clapton Girls' Technology College, Laura Place, Lower Clapton, E5 0RB
(please use rear entrance)

Transport: Nearest stations are Hackney Central, Clapton, Hackney Downs, buses 38, 48, 55, 56, 106, D6, 253, 254

Cost: £20

Aim

To give directors tools and resources to help bring the text alive in performance

Areas covered

Structure, getting the story across, getting the best from your actors

A practical session

The group will work on and comment on each other's direction as demonstrated by duologues and scenes prepared on the day with the tutor's guidance.

Delegates

New to directing or wanting to refresh your approach

Tutor

Jake Murray is an award-winning theatre director who has worked all over the country. For the last seven years he has been Associate Artistic Director at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester has taught drama all over the world, from India and Hungary to Hackney and Oxford.

3) Introductory Lighting Workshop

Day: Monday 29th March

Time: 7pm-10pm with a break

Venue: Bridewell Theatre

Cost: £5

Aim

To give people a basic understanding of lighting in theatrical productions and an appreciation of technical tools to create effective scenes.

Areas covered

Types of instruments/lanterns, effects of lighting in creating scenes and mood, and the technical process of operating a light board.

Often seen as an inexplicable tangle of technical skills, lighting design and operation is often the key to creating creative moods and manipulating space on-stage to maximum advantage.

While certainly an art in and of itself, actors, directors and interested techs can learn a great deal about the basics in a short amount of time, improving their work on-stage, or preparing them to help as an effective lighting assistant or operator.

Delegates

Directors, actors and technical participants of all levels of experience.

Tutor

Andy Peregrine – Deputy Chief Electrician at the Theatre Royal Haymarket with an inability to say 'No' which has kept him busy since 1998 on a variety of Tower productions.

Note: this workshop is also designed for non-technical participants with the aim of improving their effectiveness on-stage and appreciation of lighting options advancing the play's story.

4) Stage Combat

Day: Thursday 29th April

Time: 6:45pm-9:45pm with a break

Venue: Bridewell Theatre

Cost: £5

Aim

To give actors an understanding of basic stage combat skills and safety, and the role that it can play in deepening drama on-stage.

Areas covered

Stage safety, types of combat and examples of their use, basic fisticuffs, naps, falls, contact and non-contact movement, basic blade-work (using dowels)

Delegates

Actors and Directors interested in basic stage combat (part of the workshop will be physically interactive)

From stage-wide brawls in West Side Story and Romeo and Juliet, to epic duels and bar-room fights, combat on stage can heighten excitement and bring audiences to the edge of their seats. Behind the scene, though is a precise, carefully scripted and rehearsed series of movements that must be a balance of dramatic and safe.

Tutor

John Gurski ,a visiting SAFD-certified stage combat choreographer from Washington DC with 20 years of experience. He has designed and directed combat for the Washington Opera, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, the Kennedy Center and numerous other local theatres.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on a course, please book online at www.towertheatre.org.uk OR telephone the office on 020 7353 1700.

Only payment online or by cash/credit card/cheque in advance at the office will confirm your booking.

Places are confirmed on a first come, first served basis and places are limited - so hurry, hurry, hurry!