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INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING MASK: 2ND EDITION

Instructor

ALLISON WILLIAMS

Materials

Video modules, Handouts, Transcripts, MP3 Files, PDF of Powerpoint Slides, Completion Certificate

Course length

13 modules
2 hours, 13 minutes of video
6 credit hours

Course Description

In Introduction to Teaching Mask: 2nd Edition, Allison Williams gives you a toolkit of mask and movement exercises to teach students to make big, confident physical choices, to work in their bodies, and play different characters - masked and unmasked.

By working through the exercises in this course, you, the teacher, will also gain an understanding of basic physical acting and learn some easy specific tools to coach your students - not just in mask, but in all their performance work.

Access to masks is required, but previous experience with masks is not.

About the Instructor

Allison Williams trained in mask and movement theatre and playwriting, and holds a BA in Theatre from Eckerd College and an MFA in Playwriting from Western Michigan University.

She has been a member of the theatre faculty at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College, and served as a guest artist in residence at Rollins College, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Otterbein College, the University of South Florida, Writer's Wing in Mumbai, India, and the International Community Theatre Conference in Monaco. Allison has guest directed for the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, American Stage and The Rosebud Company (Off-Broadway).

Her plays include the Heidemann Award finalist MISS KENTUCKY, the Mark Twain Humor Writing Award finalist POSTCARDS FROM SHAKESPEARE and the London Fringe Best Of Fringe winner, TRUE STORY as well as several scripts widely produced in high schools. Her radio trilogy, DEAD MEN DON'T CARRY HANDBAGS, DEAD MEN DON'T JAYWALK, and DEAD MEN DON'T CATCH BOUQUETS aired on National Public Radio.

She has also written for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, The New York Times and The Christian Science Monitor. As a storyteller, Allison has performed at London's Theatre Royal and Rich Mix, Filocafe in Mumbai and The Kautilya Society in Varanasi, India. She is a two-time winner of The Moth StorySLAM.

Currently, Allison is the Artistic Director of Aerial Angels, and has led the creation of Fallen (Bible women + circus), Sleepwalkers (Grand Guignol + circus) and Stand Up 8 (reality circus). Their company outreach program, Starfish Circus, trains 2000 K-12 students every year in circus arts, problem-solving and courageous action.

Allison splits her time between the USA and the United Arab Emirates, where she also freelances as an event producer for Dolphin Creative.

Course Curriculum

Module 0: Introduction 6:23

This module introduces the course and what is covered throughout.

Module 1: The Running Man 3:51

This module describes and explains the Running Man exercise, which helps the students understand that committed physical action creates a sense of emotional expression.

Module 2: Exploring the Architecture of the Mask

5:48

The module covers how to identify specific shapes in a mask and how to create a character body based on those specific shapes.

Module 3: Character Zero 24:59

This module introduces the concept of a character zero, how to use the body to create a character zero, how to physically commit to that body before moving, and how to coach your students to make bigger choices both in their character zeroes and in their movement.

Module 4: The Qualities of Movement 28:58

This module explores the qualities of movement to give more variety, texture, and richness to movement choices.

Module 4B: Bonus Exercise 4:42

This module covers how to combine the qualities of movement with a mask character.

Module 5: Mask and Countermask 13:15

This module covers how to coach your students to create multiple characters with one mask, how mask and countermask work as a physical expression of emotional responses, and how two physical interpretations paired with each other and opposite to each other become the mask and the countermask.

Module 5B: Mask and Countermask & Qualities of Movement 3:10

This module explores how to incorporate the qualities of movement with countermask.

Module 6: Mask Scenes 6:32

This module explains how your students can create short solo and duo improvised mask scenes, and how your students can start acting as mask characters.

Module 7: Unmasked Roles 8:58

In this module, you will learn how to take everything we've learned so far and apply these exercises to a "normal" play, and how to lead students in mask exercises in a way that supports character development.

Module 8: Taking Mask into Text 16:05

This module explores: how to lead students in mask exercises that physicalize the text; how to associate specific gestures with text; and how to scale down mask-work into realistic acting.

Module 8B: Using Qualities of Movement to Explore Text 5:28

This module describes an exercise you can add in about using qualities of movement to explore text.

Module 9: Wrap-Up 5:16

This module wraps up the course and reviews what has been learned.

Standards Connections