



International Workshop Tour 2010

*All the information
you need to know
about our workshops*



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP TOUR 2010

Gary Friedman, Master puppeteer and Puppetry-in-Education consultant and Sharon Gelber, Occupational Therapist and Learning-Movement consultant, are once again joining forces to bring you an exhilarating experience into creativity and performance.

Their techniques activate the brain and tantalize the senses to prime the performer for thinking and performing at their peak ability.

Using the medium of puppetry and movement, they take story telling and improvisational performance to the most elaborate ends. The workshops are catalysts for breaking boundaries and pushing personal and performance limits.



WORKSHOPS



AIM OF WORKSHOPS

Participants are encouraged to expand their creative boundaries and express themselves in previously unexplored ways.

In each of the following workshops, relaxation techniques are used to ground the participants and Brain Gym® exercises activate the brain and senses to prime the body for creative processing.

A World of Paper Workshop

The workshop takes a practical hands-on and experiential format, where participants express themselves and communicate using all their senses through the medium of paper. The participants are provided with themes to develop improvisational performance pieces in-which the paper becomes the co-performer.

In a full-day workshop (6 hours), participants have the opportunity to develop the concept to include telling stories from their own life experiences. These then get 'played-back' to them by their fellow performers using the paper characters. This is based on the genre of "Playback Theatre".

The workshop takes place in a darkened room with a spot-light, so that the full impact of light and shadow can be achieved, bringing the paper to life in the most exceptional way.

Object Improvisation Workshop

Sitting in a circle, every-day objects are passed around in the darkness, encouraging the performer not to rely only on the visual, but to explore the hidden possibilities and characteristics of the object: The texture, its movement and the sounds it can create alone or in harmony with the performer.

Divided into groups, the participants are then provided with suggested themes and topics. Improvised performance pieces are developed, bringing the objects to life, as they become 'living - breathing' characters on the stage.

Hand and Ball Exercises – Basic Puppet Manipulation

The naked hand and basic white ball form the basis of the puppet. We begin the workshop exploring the naked hand: Bringing it to life with breath, movement and personality. This soon becomes the simple glove puppet, when a white ball is added. The participants perform behind a black cloth, out of sight of their audience, with their 'puppet' above the screen 'on stage'.

The hand and ball exercises are later developed into short scenarios and performed by the participants, both individually and in groups. We cover basic eye-line coordination, movement, entrances and exists, vocal exercises and character development.



Hand and Ball Exercises

Workshop Facilitators

Gary Friedman is an internationally acclaimed Master Puppeteer. After training with the late Jim Henson, he has dedicated the majority of his career to social, health and political activism using the medium of puppetry. He has developed hugely successful international adult-education projects based on HIV-AIDS, Democracy, Corruption, Abuse and Prisons. He is an international Puppetry-in-Education consultant, workshop facilitator and lecturer. At present he teaches puppetry for TV and The Web and is the creative director of his latest brain-child 'Corporate Creatures', working with puppetry as a communication tool in the corporate world.

Sharon Gelber is an Occupational Therapist, workshop facilitator and Learning-Movement consultant. She has a private therapy practice in Sydney, Australia where she combines OT with some of the latest break-through alternative healing modalities. Her workshops motivate and empower participants with profound tools to relieve stress, enhance creativity and performance; activating the brain and senses for optimal creative and physical/mental functioning in the work and home space.

Object Improv



MOVEMENT



THE TECHNICAL STUFF

The requirements to do the work!

Duration of Workshops

Each workshop can take the form of a three-hour or a full-day (six hour) workshop.

Two x three-hour workshops may be organised on the same day, if the location remains the same.

With in a six-hour day, an hour break for lunch and short tea breaks should be factored in over and above work time, as required.

More in-depth workshops (longer than one day) could include rehearsals and a performance piece to the school/ public.

Participants

Our schools workshops cater for middle and high school students and teachers are also welcome to attend. Our university and adult workshops are open to everyone. We cater for a maximum of twenty participants per workshop.

Venue

We need a large dark space, like a school hall or theatre space, which can easily be blacked-out. We need enough space for each participant to be able to lie on the floor, spread out, without being able to touch the person lying next to them. In the venue we require one or two profile theatre spot lights on stands or mounted on a lighting grid, which can easily be focused for performances.

Materials

For all workshops, we require computer amplified speakers with a mini-jack plug (to play music from our laptop) and a power point for the laptop computer.

For the **'World of Paper'** workshop, we will require one or two cutting knives (Exacto blade) and a large roll of 60gsm thin brown paper (one-meter minimum width).

Normally the cheapest brown packing paper is the best to use. It should not be glossy, but plain matt paper. We usually use between five to ten meters per person during a workshop.

For the **object improvisation workshop**, we need a collection of old household objects and tools. Each participant should be encouraged to bring objects from home: Anything that has interesting movement possibilities.

For the **Hand and Ball workshop**, we will need two or three small polystyrene balls for each participant.

Availability in 2010

We are currently taking bookings in Europe for April and May and in North America in June 2010. When enquiring, please give us alternative dates, in case we are not available on the date requested!



The nuts and bolts of creativity

Transport

If we are not already in the city in which you are situated, then transport to and from the city may be added on to our workshop fee. Local transport to and from the institution should also be budgeted for as an extra cost, unless you provide transport for us.

Accommodation

Accommodation during the workshop period should be provided by the hosting institution. A simple double room, with an extra cot (for a baby) or extra single bed should be provided.

Fees

In Europe, our fee (for two facilitators) is Euro 650 per day. This would include either a full-day workshop (six-hours) or two three-hour workshops in the same venue. In the case of a single three-hour workshop in a day, the cost would remain Euro 650.

This would be UK £600 or US \$950 per day.

A teacher's comment

"The workshop with Sharon and Gary was exciting and inspiring. One would say it's going to be quite difficult to make a group of 14- and 15-year-olds jump around and play with paper like little children, but Sharon and Gary are such wonderful playmates, entertainers and teachers, and their energy and enthusiasm wiped away all the teenagers' reluctance to perform, improvise and express themselves. We enjoyed the exercises and the tasks we

were given, and a great mixture of praise and criticism, encouragement and suggestions, serious explanations and genuine humour. Those three hours went by in a blink of an eye, and at the end of the workshop we all knew that from now on, every puppet we meet will take us back to the moments we shared with Sharon and Gary. Thank you both!"

(Nataša Šafarič, teacher of English, Velenje, Slovenia)

CONTACT DETAILS

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Productions

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