

Commedia dell'Arte

(2 -3 weeks)

The knowledge of the Commedia dell'Arte is crucial for both actors and theatre and especially opera directors. The laws and rules of the commedia are still valuable and represent a basis of craft which is extremely useful to approach the works of Shakespeare, Moliere, Cechov, contemporary theatre and opera. I take part in a research group which works on the dramaturgical aspects of the commedia. The results of these research are used in the staging modern drama as well as opera, film and telenovelas.

The rules and traditions of the Commedia dell'Arte are still alive in contemporary drama, comic strip and script writing for film and television. Since this theatre form had been developed in the street, its dramaturgy is lively, efficient and offer a large scale of identification. The knowledge of this dramaturgy leads us to a exiting way of story telling.

In the workshop we will learn about the characters of the Commedia, their tradition and hirarchy, the lazzi (gags), the history of the Commedia and the European Theatre and Circus. We will train improvisation and the instinct of developing a conflict, leading to comedy or tragedy. We will learn about choirs and their function.

We will learn to use the masks of the commedia and will get to know the 9 main characters and their cousins, theirs passions, their movements and their vices.

We will learn about the history and the tradition of the commedia and their influence on the present theatre and film/TV making.

We will learn how to use the dramaturgical laws of the commedia, learn lazzi and improvisation.

We will prepare a commedia show to present our work at the end.