

Mask and Improvisation Workshop

Steve Jarand and Shawn Kinley

Two Amazing Masters – One Unique Experience



From the evening of
January 30 till
the afternoon of
Sunday, February 1st 2009

BOOK NOW!



Have you ever worn a mask?

Do you feel in parts of your life as though you do?

What if you could choose the face you show to the world or discover new ones?

What if you discovered the reflections back on the masks that you wear?

Why do a Mask and Improvisation Workshop?

This period of economic, environmental, and political change offers complex challenges in the performance of our day-to-day lives. Common ways of responding to such uncertainty include; hiding away, battenning down the hatches, shutting down and tuning out. We suggest an alternative - one which provides more resilience and engagement. We propose increasing the levels of our creativity and openness. Now is the time to be both prudent *and* bold through connecting with our *'bigger selves'*.

Benefits of attending this Mask and Improvisation workshop will include:

- Deeper self knowledge from exploring and expressing your creative resources
- More energy and confidence
- Heightened sense of playfulness and possibility
- Surprise

How does it work?

Some words about Mask - Our minds are conditioned to seek out and create powerful emotional responses to faces. The use of masks is extensive with their use in rituals and occurs throughout the world reaching into our pre history. Masks today are used by skilled practitioners in theatre technique and organisations for deep self discovery and expression. This is not therapy, even though we discover much about ourselves.

Some words about Improvisation – Every day, each one of us improvises. We move and create value 'in the moment' with what ever we have to hand, and with what ever pops into our heads at the time. With specific exercises, we can enhance those improvisation 'muscles' and practise improvising more joyfully and skilfully.

Who Should Attend?

You...and anyone else who wants to connect with their 'Bigger Selves' in a more authentic way. For this workshop, absolutely no previous experience in improvisation or mask work is necessary nor is experience in theatre. Participants will typically range from business people to facilitators/educators to professionals to actors to not-for-profit service providers. We encourage participant diversity as it is a valuable resource for the work.

What will we be Doing?

Steve Jarand and Shawn Kinley will co-deliver the workshop. Each, bring unique and complementary qualities to mask and improvisation. It is a rare treat for them to work together, both for them and for us.

Steve's mask process uses mirrors and spontaneous sounds to help release 'truthful' characters – aspects of ourselves. He will also use exercises which enable people to be more spontaneous, flexible and creative in the masks that they wear.

Much of Shawn's process will guide attendees to work without the mask. We will work on the presence of the person and the state of mind for the work. We will look at an extremely simple mask style called Photo Mask, as well as explore full masks, neutral masks, body masks and 'group masks'. There will also be some rudimentary puppet work, which is an engaging and effective foundation for Mask work.

When

The workshop will start on the evening of Friday, January 30th and run through until the afternoon of February 1st, 2009. Places will be limited to 18 people absolute max and will be given on a first come, first served basis. To confirm your place now, email Belina at connect@maffick.com or call her on +44 (0) 777 923 5566.

How much?

Investment for the workshop is £422.78 including VAT (15%). This price includes accommodation for the Friday and Saturday nights, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. A £200 deposit is required to reserve your place, with the balance being due on January 5th 2009. For those paying the full amount up front, a 10% discount will be applied (investment of only **£380.50** including VAT 15%). And for each paying participant that you arrange to join the workshop, you will get £10 off of your workshop fee.

When and Where?

The workshop will take place in the beautiful Matara Centre, in Kingscote Park, Kingscote, Nr Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8YA <http://www.matara.co.uk/>. The Matara Centre is midway between Bristol, Swindon and Cheltenham. For those who are travelling by public transport we can pick you up and deliver you to and from Kemble station, which is only an hour and a half from London by train.

The accommodation is nearby. The first nine participants will be staying at the fabulous Hunters Hall Hotel, a 16th century coaching inn. <http://www.huntershallinn.com/accommodation.htm#> For other participants, we will arrange alternative lovely and local accommodation.

What next?

If you like what you see AND would like to either have a chat, register your interest, book your place or interrogate the person organising this event please contact Belina Raffy at connect@maffick.com or call +44 (0) 777 923 5566. Remember – places are limited to 18 and will be going fast. Book now!

Workshop Facilitator Bios



Steve Jarand

In 1987 Steve stumbled onto improvisation at Loose Moose Theatre. Spontaneity and accepting made sense to him and he was excited to break rules and to "make it up as I go". Steve's responsible side, however, said "go back to school". So he spent four years completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Calgary. Keith Johnstone taught him acting there and directed him in The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

After graduating, Steve needed to explore so he left for Europe. Since then, his adventuring has brought him to South America, Africa and several trips to India.

Between travels Steve has worked in Provincial Parks in the Rocky Mountains doing Nature theatre. There he was able to put in practice his interest in skills like storytelling, puppetry and mask work. In the winters he goes back to Loose Moose to address his own fears and expression through improvisation. For almost twenty years he has continued working. Mainly through mask work, his improvisation continues to flourish. Most recently, Steve can be seen co-leading a mask workshop on the KEITH JOHNSTONE TEACHES, volume one: Trance masks DVD. Here are some YouTube links of Steve Jarand and Keith Johnstone:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGpzYa9d-Hk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuEfVd7Nn3E>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ua5idyU1qb4>



Shawn Kinley

Shawn has worked with masks since 1984 when he studied Mask Making from Paule Stein who, at the time was in charge of Mask Making at the national Opera in France. His exploration into the performance of mask-work includes inspiration from the Swiss mask company, Mummenchanz, Theatre Beyond Words in Canada and Cirque du Soleil, who he has worked with over the past two decades. Shawn has also worked with Keith Johnstone on the 'trance style' of half masks but he engages more along the lines of motivating the physical state of the person to create the desired effect. The focus of Shawn's work is on the state of awareness (of self, mask and audience), the state of play and the state of exploration.

Shawn noticed that masks in life usually hold negative connotations. "Hiding behind a mask." "Truth behind the mask". For him, the reality is that masks are useful tools that give permission to enable desired behaviour and enable behaviour we secretly desire but shy away from. We are pushed towards expression and can hold our ego at a distance. Small people become large behind a mask. Quiet people become loud and expressive behind half masks. The use of masks is varied. His style chooses to focus the effect on the audience. This is not therapy, even though we discover much about ourselves. This style of performance gives little to the ego of the

performer because when you are done, it wasn't YOU that people remember. It's the character that came to life for a few moments in front of the audience.