

Commedia dell'Arte

Markus Kupferblum

Masterclass

The knowledge of the Commedia dell'Arte is crucial for both actors, singers, 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. Markus Kupferblum takes 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, opera, performance, comic strips and film/TV making.

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

We will learn to create an own story and prepare a commedia show to present our work at the end.

Who can take part?

Actors, Drama Students (Acting, Directing), Teachers and everybody, who is interested in the Commedia dell'Arte and who wants to get some experience. No special skills required.

Markus Kupferblum is an Austrian theatre and opera director, playwright and clown. He founded the opera company "Totales Theater" in Vienna and is an expert in Commedia dell'arte and mask theatre. Since 2013 he is the founder and director of the interdisciplinary music theatre ensemble "Schlüterwerke" in Vienna.

He has directed and shown productions in France, Austria, Germany, England, Spain, Belgium, the United States of America, Korea, Armenia, Lebanon, Iran, Israel, Russia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Peru, Switzerland, and Italy.

He was awarded the "1. Prix de l'Humour" at the Avignon Festival in 1993 and is known for working across the genres of opera, circus, theatre, and film.

In 2007 he received the "Nestroy Award" for the best German-speaking fringe production for his play "The Abandoned Dido".

In 2012 he founded the "European Theatre Day of Tolerance" which is commemorated on every 1st February. On this occasion a Memorandum for peace and tolerance is being read before the performances of almost 1.000 theaters throughout Europe.

In 2013 he published his book "The birth of curiosity - the history of the Commedia dell Arte as political revolutionary popular theatre" at the Editor "Facultas, Vienna University Press"

He was teaching e.g. at the University of Vienna, the Max Reinhardt Seminar. University of Music, Vienna, Rutgers University, USA, Michigan University, USA, Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt, August Everding Theaterakademie München, Escuela Nacional del Teatro de Bolivia, and others.