

The Language of Masks

Markus Kupferblum

Masterclass

The word „mask“ has its origin in Spanish: „Màs que la cara“. That means: „More than the face“. Masks exaggerate the facial expression and force the body and the mind to a very precise way to move and to think. The work with the mask will help us to develop human characters, - even if performed without masks at the end.

We will learn how to use **Dynamic Masks** to get the sensibility of moving with a mask.

We will use **Neutral Masks** to develop the phantasy and imagination as well as the sense of rhythm of our body and learn how to focus our expression. A basic training with Neutral Masks will help us to increase our body expression and physical presence on stage.

There is the possibility to use **Selfmade Masks** to explore their personal passions.

We will use traditional **Balinese Bondres Masks** to help us to develop our skills to express strong emotions using expressive gestures, attitudes and sounds. The Balinese "Clown" masks are used for contemporary cabaret during long temple performances of the Mahabharata.

In the workshop we will use these masks to develop our ability to create strong and charismatic characters on stage. We will work with big emotions and their opposite. We will learn about the Mahabharata and its tradition.

At last we will explore the poetic and silent expression of the **Swiss Carneval Masks**. Here the rhythm of our body and the decisive expression of our mind create an allegorical personage who reacts to various situations and scenarios.

Who can take part?

Actors, Drama Students (Acting, Directing), Teachers and everybody, who is interested in mask work 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.