

Stratford Festival Voice and Text Class for University Students 2016

Course Description

This is a course focusing on acting the language of Shakespeare. It is practical in its philosophy and its application: wholly designed to give the aspiring actor a handful of tools with which to explore, personalize and perform Shakespeare's text. It is not, therefore, a theoretical course or a study of Shakespeare as dramatic *literature*.

The work takes the form of two major sections, both integral to each other. Firstly, the student will experiment with practical tools to decipher Shakespeare's language and make it their own. Meanwhile, exercises in Voice will encourage and enable the actor to develop those facets of their instrument that allow them to further access, experience and communicate Shakespeare's language. Students come to the course from varying levels of acting training. Previous acting experience and/or experience with Shakespeare is not necessarily a path to success in the course. *Process*, *Progress*, and a corresponding commitment to the work are valued over *Perfection*.

Instructors:

The Voice Work will be conducted by **Jane Gooderham**

Janine Gooderham is a Voice, Text and Dialect Coach at the Stratford Festival, now in her 14th season. She received a BA in Acting from Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London), and an MA (Voice) from the Central School of Speech and Drama (London).

She has also just completed her 8th and final year as Head of Voice at the National Theatre School of Canada. She has also taught for the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training, Soulpepper's Academy, and for the Centre for Indigenous Theatre Training. Professionally, she has done voice, text or dialect work on *War Horse* (Royal National Theatre of Great Britain/ Mirvish), *Arcadia* (Shaw Festival/Mirvish), *London Road*, *The Syringa Tree*, and *Rock n' Roll* (CanStage), the premiere of Edward Bond's *Chair* and *Oroonoko* (Theatre for a New Audience, NYC), *Cloud Nine*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Producers*, *Mama Mia!* (Mirvish), *Chimera* (Tarragon), *Happy*

Artistic Director Dennis Garnhum, participated in The Toronto 5 Workshop, and conducted a workshop with Shakespeare in the Ruff. Website:

Dress:

Students are required to bring a yoga-type mat for the floorwork that will take place.

Students are strongly encouraged to work in bare feet so as to make full use of contact with the floor. Any footwear deemed to impede the work is discouraged. Students should dress in clothing appropriate to a movement class: i.e., warmup pants or other stretch clothing that will provide comfort and flexibility. Clothing should also be “neutral”; contemporary fashion and logo-embossed clothing should be avoided. The current fashion of having midriffs exposed, with shirts cut short and/or pants cut low is not allowed. Earrings, jewelry, piercings should be removed for class. Tattoos should be hidden, if possible. There will be no food or drink (other than water) allowed in class. You may wish to bring along a sweater or blanket, since you may get cold during some of the floor work.

Timetable:

The course runs July 18th to August 5th, 2016. Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

All classes take place in the Avon Theatre rehearsal halls.

NOTE: For the First Day (Monday, July

