

STUDIO
MATEJKA

acting – performing in front of a camera

CONTRA/DICTIONS
physical theatre workshop

22-27 APRIL 2014

Athens, Greece



CONTRA/DICTIONS

Physical Theatre Workshop

Acting - Performing in Front of a Camera

22-27 April 2014 Athens Greece

6 days - 42 hours - 3 instructors



Led by

Matej Matejka (SK/PL), Alexandra Kazazou (GR/PL), Petros Sevastikoglou (GR/FR)

- **contradictions**

In this work session, we will explore the territory of 'contradictions' as a source of research for the performer. Contradictions are not a limitation, but rather, by focusing simultaneously on opposite ideas, they open doorways for the inner, primal sources of the body to flow. In the lineage of the practice of Jerzy Grotowski, the world exists as a dynamic fusion of contradictions, in which the performer is able to discover a path to his total essence. Through a laboratory model that seeks to break the borders between dance, theatre, and movement techniques, we aim to unlock the potentialities for beginnings, where action is born. This is an invitation to delve into the rigorous and experimental workspace that defines Studio Matejka.

- **acting – performing in front of a camera**

This workshop will be a continuity of the workshop "contradictions". Through the physical and vocal patterns that will be introduced during the "contradictions" we will focus on the expression inside a frame, the language of the detail. In acting for the stage and acting for the screen we are talking with the same words but using two different languages. We will focus on the simultaneous "translation" from one language to the other. Stage and screen acting in a common performance.

This important workshop - conducted for the second year in Athens - is targeted towards practitioners with an interest and experience in theatre or dance. It is open both for professional actors and dancers. This challenge requires serious focus and precision from all engaged in the work. It is open to those who are willing to explore less common fields of physical and vocal expression.

This year the workshop is enriched with the dimension of the presence of the camera where the physical actions will be implemented in both the "large" space that will take place in the workshop and the "restricted" area of the film frame with the interest focused on "transitions" from one environment to another. Is this an additional contradiction or simply the continuation of an action ?

In this year's edition of the workshop **Contra/Dictions** the renowned director and teacher **Petros Sevastikoglou** is added to the two instructors from **Studio Matejka**, which is under the auspices of the Institute of **Grotowski**, **Matej Matejka** and **Aleksandra Kazazou**.



Participants will be introduced to elements of:

- respectful and focused working environment
- the building of a personal, daily physical practice
- sensitivity and listening through partner and group relation
- awakening the anatomy of the body to develop readiness for action
- transformation from physical training into creative improvisation
- composition of physical structures
- group rhythmical pulse and body rhythm

Creative Preparation

Chosen participants will be asked to bring:

- three images of any personal inspiration (printed hard copies),
- bring a text which has personal value (written by other author or participant) (printed copies),
- if you have any competency with a musical instrument, please bring it to the session.

Languages: Workshop will be led in English. The practice is based on foundation of communication and listening through the body and therefore verbal explanation will be kept to a minimum. Translation will be available in Greek if necessary.

Conditions for Work

comfortable training clothing for dynamic movement and strenuous work (spare shirts recommended)

actors should be present in space 20 minutes before session begins for their individual warmup and stretching

only water and notebook/pens will be allowed in the space in order to keep a clean, focused working atmosphere

refrain from speaking and discussing inside of the workspace, discussions should be kept outside of the workspace in order to protect the energy and sound environment for the work

Dates / location / cost

Dates: 22-27 April 2014 daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm (the first 3 days) and from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 pm (the last 3 days) with one hour break at 12:30 pm.

Location: in a new industrial space in the center of Athens).

Fee: 350 euros for 42 hours workshop.

- **Special reduced price 280 euros** will apply for reservations and payment **before end of February.**

Requirements

Brief letter of intention for the workshop and professional CV

Contact

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The Grotowski Institute, Wrocław, is an institution which combines artistic and scholarly research projects that correspond to the challenges laid down by Jerzy Grotowski's creative practice. The Grotowski Institute emerged out of the Centre for Study of Jerzy Grotowski's Work and for Cultural and Theatrical Research, which existed from 1989, and operates from the former Laboratory Theatre premises located in Wrocław's Old Market Square and from the forest base of Brzezinka. The change of the name and the statute, which took place on 28th December 2006, marks a realignment, expansion and development of the institution's programmes. The Grotowski Institute continues the lines of work run by the Grotowski Centre, whilst placing more emphasis on education, promotion, producing and publishing.

Giving equal focus to all these fields of activity is essential, and it is through a renewed emphasis on young people's education and their artistic activity that the Institute is able to remain a living entity, which initiates and stimulates the development of a new generation of artists and other people devoted to culture. The Grotowski Institute is the direct and sole successor to the activities and heir to the possessions of the Grotowski Centre, and remains an organisation that carries out a range of undertakings within the domains of culture, education and the arts. The Institute serves as a kind of vehicle that facilitates work on oneself.

The new name refers to that of Grotowski's theatre, which operated at 27 Rynek-Ratusz in Wrocław between 1965 and 1984. Grotowski added the suffix 'Institute for Studies of Acting Method' (abbreviated to 'Actor's Institute' in 1970) to the original title of '**Laboratory Theatre**' (which also bore the additional suffix 'of 13 Rows' until the beginning of 1967), when he decided to continue his work in Wrocław. In the mid-1970s another name change, to 'Laboratory Institute', was proposed but not formally adopted. Such a solution enabled him to conduct 'practical studies on the technical principles of theatre art, focused on the creative technique of the actor', and relieved him of the necessity to produce performances. This allowed Grotowski to reinforce and expand his research and studio work, which greatly contributed to the historical transformation of 20th century theatre.

Studio Matejka

Began its activities in 2010 as a physical theater laboratory exploring 21st century performance techniques that specifically work across borders: Borders between performance genres, borders between training techniques, and borders between individual expression and collective resonance. Through practical investigation, the performers work to develop the strength, agility and dexterity to physically 'speak' through a diverse range of ideas, images and vocabularies. The Studio is led by Matej Matejka and composed of 8 performers from 7 countries. Additionally, the Studio is regularly accompanied by external affiliates. Vivien Wood (UK), Sarie Mairs Slee (UK/USA) and Milan Kozanek (SK) assist the leader in the psychophysical research. Ditte Berkeley (DK/UK) and Jarosław Fret (PL) lead music training and supervise music composition. Bryan Brown (USA) collaborates on the dramaturgy of the performances. The academic team of the Studio is supervised by Sarie Mairs Slee (USA) assisted by Torbjorn Oppedal (NOR) and Ragnhild Freng Dale (NOR) who record, contextualize and inform the laboratory research. The Studio's film and documentary team is comprised of Adam Hanuljak (SK), Peter Kotrha (SK) and Karol Jarek (PL).

www.matejkastudio.blogspot.com



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Matej Matejka (SK/PL)

Leader and founder of Studio Matejka.

Studied acting at the State Conservatory in Bratislava, Slovakia, later at JAMU University, Brno, Czech Republic. From 2001–2006, actor of Theatre studio **Farm in the Cave**, Prague and co-creator of the projects and performances *Dark Love Sonnets*, *Journey to the Station* and *SCLAVI / The Song of an Emigrant*, which received **Total Theater Award**, **Fringe First Award** and **Herald Angel Award** in 2006 *Fringe Festival*. Since 2005, collaborator of **The Grotowski Institute**, where he is engaged in research of physical expression in the theatre. Actor and leader of physical training in **Teatr ZAR** theatre company. Performs in *Gospels of Childhood*, *Caesarean Section: Essays on Suicide* and *Anhelli: The Calling*. *Caesarean Section* was winner of the **Total Theatre Award** and **Fringe First Award** in 2012 *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*. Leads his own work sessions "Wakening the Listening Body" at the Grotowski Institute, as well as with Teatr ZAR, both in Poland and internationally. In his work he searches for the performer's "essence of communication" where both dance and drama are only vehicles for the actor's expression.

Alexandra Kazazou (GR/PL)

Born in Wrocław, Poland. She is half-Greek, half-Polish and studied acting in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She worked as an actor in the North National Theater and co-founded the team **Asypka**, a theatrical group based in Athens. She first encountered physical theatre in a workshop with **Teatr Pieśń Kozła** during her studies and in 2009 she went to Wrocław to enter the MA in Acting course with *Piesn Kozla* in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University. Currently, a member of **Studio Matejka** in **The Grotowski Institute**, member of the **Odra Ensemble** in collaboration with Teatr Pieśń Kozła and member of **Jubilo Project** in Wrocław. Her main interest of research is focused on the function of chorus in Greek tragedy and the connection with the daily chorus of life and ensemble work. A significant inspiration and life experience was her expedition to the Guantanamo Bay base in Cuba. She is a certified teacher of Ashtanga Yoga and also teaches Ancient Greek tragedy at the University of Wrocław (ISKIO), Mediterranean Studies department.

Petros Sevastikoglou (GR/FR)

Petros Sevastikoglou was born in 1959, in Moscow from greek parents. He has a french and greek nationality. He holds a Master of sociology from the University of Paris X Nanterre (France)

Subject: "Semiotic and aesthetic of the image" under the supervision of Pr. Jean Beaudrillard, and a Bachelor of science from the film department of Ithaca College (U.S.A) Film directing and Director of photography. He has directed two features films, numerous documentary films for the the television (1988-1998) and more than 80 TV commercials (1988-1995). He works and lives in Athens.

Petros Sevastikoglou (IMDb) is a director and writer known for [Anemos stin poli](#) (1996), [Treis stigmes](#) (2008) and [Attractive Illusion](#) (2012).



"Eilissos" - a company for culture - 8th Period 2012-2013

«Eilissos» micro-art space hosts the same name non-profit organization founded in 2006 by a group of artists, scientists and entrepreneurs with a vision to general research, study, preservation and dissemination of art in various forms.

"Eilissos": an old house - in the center of Athens, near the old river bed of the same name - which becomes a "pocket theater" or a stage for music performances depending on the needs of the event. A warm and welcoming new multicultural space aspires to give step to young talented artists and to acclaimed experienced ones in important and often unexpected moments.

"Eilissos" is also organizing performances in external sites, selected with more capacity, as the "second stage" of "Eilissos".

The team that founded "Eilissos" with love and enthusiasm, works on achieving common goals together with old and new friends who immediately embraced this effort.

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