



MASTERCLASS SERIES 2018

OBJECT THEATRE MASTERCLASS Théâtre de la Pire Espèce (Canada)

Belltable:Connect is delighted to announce an open call for applications to its Masterclass Series, supported by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon under the Theatre Artist Development Scheme.

Running in the first half of 2018, the Masterclass Series is an opportunity to engage, stimulate and motivate theatre makers to enhance and develop their skills in Limerick. The 5-months programme offers participants a vibrant and dynamic schedule of intensive masterclasses with renowned Irish and international theatre makers and companies. Each masterclass is open to ten professional Ireland-based theatre/performing arts practitioners and each has a different focus.

For our first Masterclass, we are delighted to welcome Théâtre de la Pire Espèce (Canada) back to Limerick.

Object theatre offers unheard-of dramatic and poetic possibilities. These possibilities are revealed through theatrical games and the imagination of actors and spectators. But what are these games?

With this intensive 4-day masterclass (20 hours) plus public presentation, Francis Monty and Étienne Blanchette of the Théâtre de la Pire Espèce (Canada) will invite participants to learn about and to explore the different aspects of creating with objects: the various ways of manipulating them and the particular dramaturgy used for them. This masterclass will be of a hands-on approach, and participants will work on a short piece that will be presented on the last day of the masterclass.

OBJECT THEATRE MASTERCLASS DATES:

Monday 29th January to Thursday 1st February 2018, from 10 am to 4 pm, plus 1st February 2018, from 8pm to 10pm, at Belltable in Limerick.

INSTRUCTORS:

Francis Monty and Étienne Blanchette of the Théâtre de la Pire Espèce (Montreal, Quebec, Canada). Théâtre de la Pire Espèce is a pioneer of object theatre in Quebec, Canada and has been touring internationally since 1999. Its theatre combines raw materials with unbridled imagination and surgical precision. It explores and plays with stage conventions and the rules of dramatic narration, and seeks to establish a close complicity with the audience. The company regularly offers workshops and other intensive courses in Quebec and abroad.

Francis Monty, one of the two artistic directors of the company, graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada's playwriting program in 1997. Since then, Francis has worked in virtually every aspect of theatre; from directing to acting, puppetry to playwriting. Étienne Blanchette graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada's acting program in 2010 and has toured and collaborated closely with the company since his graduation.

FOR WHOM?

This 4-day, 20-hour masterclass is intended for Ireland-based professionals in the performing arts; actors, dancers, playwrights, puppeteers, storytellers, circus artists and all practitioners of the stage wishing to address the public through object theatre. The masterclass is open to 10 artists. Successful applicants will receive a stipend to help cover their costs.

CRITERIA:

- Submissions are welcome from professional individual Irish or Ireland-based performing arts practitioners, applications from collectives or groups will not be accepted
- Experience or studies in the performing arts are essential. Experience in object theatre is not
- Applicants must be over 18 years of age
- The masterclass takes place in Limerick City and applicants must be present for the duration, from Monday 29th January to Thursday 1st February, 2018.
- Applications are welcome from artists who previously applied for and/or are currently taking part in other Belltable:Connect programmes

OBJECTIVES:

The masterclass proposes an exploration of different ways of building a story based on the relationship between the actor-storyteller and the manipulated object.

The main objectives are:

- to acquire the basic principles of the manipulation of the object
- to recognize and interpret the different roles of the performer (manipulator, actor, storyteller)
- to recognize and create the narrative elements that put forward the puppetry techniques studied in the masterclass.

PROGRAMME:

The training will touch on specific aspects of object theatre, with emphasis on "stage writing". What is the role played by words and the role played by images? The role of the

object, and that of the body of the actor? Thus, through the animated object (object-character) and the icon or the effigy (symbolic object), the masterclass will address the different roles of the manipulator (actor, narrator, storyteller, director, etc.) and the narrative voices connected with it.

The trainees will explore different ways of writing images using the object, figurine or material as the focal point of the narrative. Through a series of sketches, participants will acquire multiform writing tools and explore different creative processes. Time will be reserved for the creation of 'short forms'. These will be presented publicly, on February 1st 2018 in the evening in Belltable.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Applications can only be made via email to Marketa Dowling, Belltable Programme Manager: belltable@limetreetheatre.ie and must include all parts of the application form completed.

Closing Date: Monday, 27th November, 2017, 12 noon.

Late applications will be deemed ineligible.

Applications will be assessed by an independent panel, whose decision is final.

Application is by open call to ensure fair selection and a wide range of participants.

Applicants will be informed if they were successful on or before Friday, December 8th, 2017.

Stipend: Successful applicants will receive a stipend to help cover their costs to the amount of €300 each – subject to terms of conditions.

Belltable:Connect is an artist development initiative. The Lime Tree Theatre and Belltable are funded by Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council and the Arts Council. Belltable:Connect Masterclass Series 2018 is supported by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon under the Theatre Artist Development Scheme.



Lime Tree Theatre | Belltable is supported by Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City & County Council, the Arts Council and Mary Immaculate College