

The Foundation for
THE GROTOWSKI INSTITUTE
Wroclaw, Poland

invites for

ATELIER 2008

SUSPENSION OF EXPRESSION

1–27 July 2008

Directed by: Jaroslaw Fret and Dr. Grzegorz Ziolkowski

The Atelier consists of a series of practical and theoretical work sessions for actors, musicians, singers, dancers, and theatre people with the aim to work on the craft in the primary meaning of the word. The craft is a skill of discovering creative motivation in oneself, of using tools, of keeping in order the working spaces (actual spaces and spaces of the body and the voice). These elements build a skeleton of actor's creative preparation for actions, the core of which are recognition and dedication.

Atelier 2008 will be centered on the problem of suspension of expression as the creative need and force in the actor's art.

PROGRAMME

The programme of the Atelier consists of: a theatre festival *Openings* and **Courses**.

• *Openings* are presentations of performances, concerts and demonstrations of work open for wider audiences. Presentations will be made mainly by artists whose projects are realised along the promotional line of the Grotowski Institute.

In 2008 following ensembles will share their works:

- Laboratorio Permanente di Ricerca sull'Arte dell'Attore (Torino, Italy)
- Maisternia Pisni (Lviv, Ukraine)
- New World Performance Laboratory (Akron, USA)
- Plavo Pozorište/The Blue Theatre (Belgrade, Serbia)
- Song In-Between Undertaking (Wroclaw, Poland)
- Theatre ZAR (Wroclaw, Poland)

• **Courses** will be carried within 3 five-day units which embrace independent lines of work developed by separate artists (on a whole 200 hours of practices). Apart from them, the programme includes: theoretical classes, meetings with work leaders, and film presentations with introductions.

• The work of the Atelier will be summarized during the last two days dedicated to individual meetings, presentations of the participants' works, evaluation and summary.

SPACES

The sessions will take place in the site of the Grotowski Institute in Wrocław – in the historical space of the Laboratory Theatre (Rynek Ratusz 27), as well as in the forest base of the Institute in Brzezinka – the place of realisation of paratheatrical projects of Jerzy Grotowski in the 1970s and his Theatre of Sources in the early 1980s.

SESSIONS' LEADERS

- Zygmunt Molik (a long-term member of the Laboratory Theatre)
 - Domenico Castaldo and actors from Laboratorio Permanente di Ricerca sull'Arte dell'Attore (Turin, Italy)
 - Natalka Polovynka and Sergey Kovalevich of Maisternia Pisni (Lviv, Ukraine)
 - Matej Matejka and other actors of Theatre ZAR (Wrocław, Poland)
 - Jarosław Fret (Director of the Grotowski Institute, leader of Theatre ZAR)
 - Dr. Grzegorz Ziolkowski (Programme Director of the Grotowski Institute) assisted by Agnieszka Pietkiewicz (the Grotowski Institute)
- as well as
- Monika Blige, Adela Karsznia, and Magdalena Madra (members of the Research Team of the Grotowski Institute), and Duncan Jamieson (Exeter University, UK)

Zygmunt Molik was for 25 years an actor of Jerzy Grotowski's Teatr Laboratorium (Laboratory Theatre). He played the main role in forming the voice training initiated by Jerzy Grotowski. Releasing of the creative energy and the search of the unity and connection between the body and the voice became for him the basis of an actor's process. The work session focuses on releasing blocked voice, body and energy.

Domenico Castaldo – actor, director, musician. He trained at the school of Teatro Stabile di Torino (Turin, Italy), and also at the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards in Pontedera (Italy). In 1996 he founded Laboratorio Permanente di Ricerca sull'Arte dell'Attore – an independent association established to carry research into actor's art. For the last three years, with the Laboratorio he has run an international project of training, exchange, and performances – *On the Steps of Simurgh* – based on a poetical Sufi text of Farid ad Din Attar. He leads work sessions for various Italian and foreign theatre companies, school theatres, and universities. See: www.laboratoriopermanentedicastaldo.it

Matej Matejka – since 2005 a collaborator of Theatre ZAR and the Grotowski Centre and then – the Grotowski Institute. He studied music and drama in the State Conservatory in Bratislava (Slovakia) and JAMU in Brno (Czech Republic). In the years 2000–2005 he was a member of Farm in the Cave Theatre Studio in Prague. Actor in its performances *Dark Love Sonnets* and *Sclavi. The Song of an Emigrant*. Having collaborated with Viliam Docolomansky he led various work sessions focused on physical theatre. Currently, he is a member of Theatre ZAR and works on its new performance *Caesarean Section*. He collaborates also with Yaro Vinarsky, a Czech choreographer and director.

Natalka Polovynka of Maisternia Pisni (Lviv, Ukraine) – singer, actress, teacher. Born in the area of Winnica, into a family of teachers. She studied at the Lysenko State Conservatory in Lviv (under Prof. Tarnavecka) and trained at the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski in Pontedera (Italy). From 1988 she collaborated with the Les Kurbas Theatre in Lviv. Laureate of international music and theatre festivals. Performer of ancient religious music, folk songs, romances, contemporary music and contemporary improvisation music. From 1996 she collaborates with Sergey Kovalevich from Moscow. See: www.maisternia.com.ua

Sergey Kovalevich of Maisternia Pisni (Lviv, Ukraine) – director and dramaturge of musical-drama theatre, pedagogue, student of the distinguished theatre maker Volodimir Klimenko (Klim). In the years 1988–2002 the director of traditional culture at the drama school Word and Voice in Electrostal (Russia). He has gathered fourteen years of experiences: from classical theatre to laboratory and experimental activities, as well as culture projects based on the tradition of the Orthodox Church. Director of anthropological documentaries dedicated to N. G. Alexeiovich – one of the founders of the Russian school of methodology. See: www.maisternia.com.ua

Jaroslaw Fret is the Director of the Grotowski Institute and a founder and a leader of Theatre ZAR. Starting from 1999 he organized several expeditions to Caucasus and the Near and Middle East to explore the old Christian churches (Georgian, Armenian, Syrian) and the Mandaeas – the last living, ancient Gnostic group surviving in Iran. One part of this project is Theatre ZAR's performance, *The Gospels of Childhood*, which has been presented in Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, and Hungary. He was a co-editor of two special issues of *Pamiętnik Teatralny* dedicated to Jerzy Grotowski (Warsaw 2000–2001). He leads the Grotowski Institute with Grzegorz Ziolkowski where they organise numerous events: conferences, theatre and music presentations, exhibitions, work sessions, lectures and meetings which correspond to the challenges laid down by Jerzy Grotowski's artistic practice.

Theatre ZAR was shaped during almost three years of expeditions and rehearsals. In the years 1999–2003 the group collected musical material during journeys to Georgia, Bulgaria and Greece. Work on the Svaneti music turned out to be of special importance. The Svans, who inhabit the highest part of the Caucasus, have preserved in their tradition funeral songs which have their roots in the beginning of our era and which are the oldest form of polyphonic singing in Georgia, and perhaps in the world. The work on the learned music traditions resulted in the presentation of work on performance *Gospels of Childhood* in October 2002, at the 25th anniversary of the Centre for Theatre Practices Gardzienice.

Grzegorz Ziolkowski, PhD, theatre scholar, editor, translator from and into English (among others of Peter Brook's *The Shifting Point* and Jerzy Grotowski's *Towards a Poor Theatre*), theatre director and work sessions leader, lecturer at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, author of *Teatr Bezpośredni Petera Brooka* (*The Immediate Theatre of Peter Brook* Gdansk 2000). In years 1991–2001 artistic director and actor of Biuro Poszukiwan Teatralnych (The Office for Theatrical Research) in Poznan. Co-creator of the International Theatre Festival Maski in Poznan from 1997 to 2003. The originator and organizer of numerous theatre conferences. He collaborates with Cracow/Wroclaw theatre journal *Didaskalia* and have published in *Teatr*, *Scena*, and *Poznanskie Studia Polonistyczne*. In 2004, with Prof. Paul Allain, he co-edited a special issue of *Contemporary Theatre Review* devoted to Polish theatre after 1989. In 2005, with Prof. Janusz Degler, he co-edited *Essere un uomo totale. Autori polacchi su Grotowski. L'ultimo decennio* (Torino, Wroclaw 2005). Since 2004 the Programme Director of the Grotowski Centre. Currently, with Jaroslaw Fret he leads the Grotowski Institute.

Agnieszka Pietkiewicz – graduated from theatre studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan in 2007. She has been an apprentice in Grzegorz Ziolkowski's work for three years and developed a dramatic miniature *Leaden Ball* under direction of Ziolkowski within their project *Song In-Between*.

Monika Blige – graduate in Polish philology at the Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznan with the dissertation titled *Wiecej niż teatr. Teatr Wiejski Wegajty – fenomen kulturowy i*

artystyczny' (*More Than Theatre*. Village Theatre Wegajty – cultural and artistic phenomenon) supervised by Prof. Dobrochna Ratajczakowa. In the years 2001–2005 she collaborated with the Field Project of the Wegajty Theatre. Since 2004 she has been a PhD student of the Drama and Theatre Department at AMU, where under the supervision of Prof. Ewa Guderian-Czaplinska she is writing her thesis dedicated to Ludwik Flaszen. Since 2005 she has worked at the Grotowski Centre. She coordinates activities of the Publishing Section.

Adela Karsznia – graduate in Polish philology at the Wrocław University with the dissertation dedicated to the activities of the Grotowski Centre. Under the direction of Prof. Janusz Degler, she is preparing her PhD on the activities of the Laboratory Theatre in the years 1959–1965. Since 2005 she has worked at the Grotowski Centre. She coordinates activities of the Grotowski Institute Archive.

Magdalena Madra – graduate in Polish philology and in culture studies at the Wrocław University. From 2007 she is a PhD student at the Wrocław University, preparing her thesis under the supervision of Prof. Janusz Degler on the paratheatrical period of the Laboratory Theatre. She coordinates activities of the Administration of the Grotowski Institute.

Duncan Jamieson – graduated in European Theatre from Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, London. He is currently a PhD student in the Department of Drama at the University of Exeter, supervised by Prof. Phillip Zarrilli and William Stanton. His thesis explores aspects of ethics, structure and subjectivity in performance practice and contemporary philosophy, focusing on the work of Jerzy Grotowski. He has written on Grotowski for *Contemporary Theatre Review* and has taught at the University of Exeter since 2005.

SCHEDULE

1 July (Tuesday): arrival, *Openings* (Wrocław)

2–4 July (Wednesday-Friday): *Openings* (Wrocław)

5–9 July (Saturday-Wednesday): 1st Step (Wrocław): Domenico Castaldo / Zygmunt Molik

10 July (Thursday): lecture and film presentations, meetings with work leaders, travel to Brzezinka

11–15 July (Friday-Tuesday): 2nd Step (Brzezinka): Matej Matejka with Theatre ZAR / Maisternia Pisni

16 July (Wednesday): lectures, film presentations, meetings with work leaders

17 July (Thursday): free day, possibility to attend conference on Pedro Calderon de la Barca in the Grotowski Institute

18–22 July (Friday-Tuesday): 3rd Step (Brzezinka): Grzegorz Ziolkowski with Agnieszka Pietkiewicz / Jaroslaw Fret with Theatre ZAR

23 July (Wednesday): lecture, film presentations, meetings with work leaders

24–25 July (Thursday-Friday): individual meetings in work

26 July (Saturday): presentations of the participants' works, evaluation, summaries

27 July (Sunday): departure

LANGUAGE

All courses will be run in **English**.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

16. The participants will be selected upon the application forms.

COST

1.100,00 Euros. Cost for Central and Eastern European citizens: **800,00 Euros.** This takes form of a donation for the activities of the foundation and covers: entrance fee for performances during *Openings*, tuition, travel from Wroclaw to Brzezinka and back, accommodation in Wroclaw, accommodation and meals in Brzezinka. The participants arrive to Wroclaw on their own expense.

APPLICATIONS

Applications should be sent by **electronic mail** only to Agnieszka Pietkiewicz: agnieszka@grotowski-institute.art.pl

Please use the *Application form* from the attachment

DEADLINES

- Sending of application forms: **30th of April 2008.**
- Confirmation will be sent to selected participants by **15th of May 2008.**
- The fee should be transferred, in euros only, by **1st of June 2008** at the account provided.

INFORMATION

Detailed information on the Atelier 2008 is provided by Agnieszka Pietkiewicz: ph. (0048) 71 34 45 320 or ph./fax (0048) 71 34 34 267; email: agnieszka@grotowski-institute.art.pl.

COORDINATION

Coordination: Justyna Rodzinska

Collaboration: Agnieszka Pietkiewicz and Karolina Szwed

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