

We thank VGB for their ongoing support in partially sponsoring our workshop resources.

Creating a Multidisciplinary Performance | Alex Weenik

Theatre is a live combination of different artistic forms: music, movement, text, and visuals. In this workshop, we will explore methods of generating performance material inspired by these forms. Artists of any medium are welcome, and encouraged, to attend and offer their unique artistic points of view to the process of theatre-making.

Alex is a performer, theatre-maker and the Artistic Director of Chewing Productions. Selected recent performances include Ray in The Beauty Queen of Leenane, Tony in Bull, Aguecheek/Feste in Twelfth Night, Desperation in Walking Home, and Ensemble in Il-Fidwa tal-Bdiewa.

Exploring the Descant Recorder | Maestro Manoel Pirotta

What is a Descant Recorder? Meet the Mediaeval Recorder family and get to know its historical background by hearing excerpts from the classical repertoire. Then hear some of our college students play on it to the simple accompaniment of a keyboard and some percussion. During the second part of the workshop I will be showing you how to play some very easy tunes on the Descant Recorder. Participants are encouraged to bring over their personal descant recorder.

Mro Manoel Pirotta, composer and musical director, is senior lecturer of music at the University of Malta 'Ġ.F. Abela' Junior College. He also directs the college orchestra which this year happens to be its 25th anniversary.

Fundamentals in Physical Actor Training | Prof. Frank Camilleri

The workshop focuses on essential skills of inhabiting one's body to explore a range of movements not generally activated in everyday life. The aim is to enable participants to express themselves and communicate via a language of the body.

Frank Camilleri is Professor of Theatre Studies at the University of Malta and Artistic Director of Icarus Performance Project. His publications on performer training and practice as research reflect the theatre work he has been developing since 1989.

Clay fancy mugs | Rev. Jesmond Grech

A very brief introduction to basic clay techniques through the hands-on making of fancy mugs. Participants will get a feeling of working with clay as a medium. Eventually all works will be dried, fired and Glazed.

Jesmond Grech is the chaplain at JC. A Priest with a passion for sculpture and terracotta. He has been teaching clay modelling and terracotta techniques for the last 10 years.

Music and Graphics | Dr Max Erwin

What does music look like? How do you turn shapes and lines into music? These are questions that professional performers answer every day, and they're not as simple as they look (or sound). This workshop is devoted to making music in the widest possible sense – participants will get hands-on experience in realising unique musical scores with unconventional notation and understand different cultural approaches towards representing music in performance.

Dr Max Erwin is a musicologist, composer, and Head of the Department of Music Studies at the University of Malta.

Clay Modelling - First Steps towards Sculptural Form | Mattia Scappini

Material guides us in the search for form. Starting with a clay sphere, we will cut and reassemble to generate a new balance. In this process, the parts obtained by sectioning a simple solid suggest resonances and new possible compositions. These initially rigid pieces can then be deformed and fused together. Participation does not require any particular skills or experience, but a willingness to engage is important. Far from the traditional work of observation/restitution, this type of modeling will lead us to obtain abstract sculptural/plastic forms close to the figuration of some major authors of the last century.

Mattia Scappini teaches plastic education at the Venturi Art High School in Modena. In his artistic research, he mostly works in sculpture and painting with traditional materials such as stone and oil on canvas. He loves the wind, the mountains, and everything that flies without an engine. [Website link: scappinimattia.wordpress.com]

Echoes from the Shadows | Ms Moira Borg Bonaci

Collage is an art technique involving the assembly of various forms or images to create a cohesive whole. It draws from diverse images and experiences, allowing artists to construct narratives or responses. Collage materials can range from magazine clippings to photographs, offering a chance to play with connections between disparate elements and express ideas creatively. In a surreal art workshop themed “Echoes from the Shadows” participants explore marginalized narratives through photography, reflecting, experimenting, and collaborating to convey powerful messages.

Moira Borg Bonaci, Lecturer at Junior College, Msida will be delivering the workshop.

Mindful Movement | Rachel Calleja

Join us in a space where you are invited to connect with the essence of who you are and meet yourself in the present moment. Mindful Movement combines dance, movement, breath, art and community to create a practice that allows you to slow down, listen, ground yourself and express yourself with freedom. It is a safe and non-judgemental space to connect with self and others by dancing, breathing, moving and witnessing. It also benefits you on every level - physical, mental and emotional! It is open to everyone, with no experience required. The movement invitations presented will be simple, allowing you to interpret them in any way that resonates with you. You cannot go wrong because this is your personal movement expression from start to finish! If you'd like to experience an hour to explore, play, be free and tune into yourself then this session is for you!

Rachel Calleja is a choreographer, community artist and creative therapist who has researched the beautiful benefits of dance improvisation and transcendent states and is facilitating this knowledge through mindful movement.

Weaving stories | Lara Agius

Stories are always at the centre of how our society remembers its traditions, practices and people. Learn how to create stories that engage audiences using just the oral tradition. What stories do you want to tell?

Lara is a theatre maker who works in several mediums ranging from theatre to design. She is best known for her contribution to the theatre scene as a writer, actor, storyteller, and director. Lara creates works for both young and older audiences with a special interest in community theatre, Sci-Fi and domestic dramas.

Voices in Motion | Julienne Schembri

This dance workshop, anchored in the theme "UNHEARD VOICES," draws inspiration from narratives challenging societal norms. The focus is on using the body as a means of expression to embody the spirit of those who've defied discrimination and oppression. Curated around 10 quotes from voices flipping the script, the workshop aims to serve as an opportunity to learn from diverse perspectives, fostering a space where muted voices can be felt, seen, heard and celebrated.

The atmosphere will foster creativity, allowing individuals to explore and express themselves through movement by expressing oneself through the body, and leveraging text to inspire and guide the creative process. The culmination will be crafting a short dance theatre piece inspired by voices that have stood against adversity.

Julienne Schembri is a movement and dance practitioner, performer and artist working with the community. She works as a somatic movement educator to create communities of people moving together. She is co-founder of Dance Beyond Borders whose intention is to unite diverse people through the Arts.

ĊAQLAQLI - Improvisation Workshop | Miguel Formosa

Improvisation is at the heart of theatre in many ways, for instance as we are on stage and forget our lines. But improvisation is also done in every day life, we improvise all the time when things don't go to plan. During this workshop we shall be exploring a variety a scenarios in order to kick of an ideology of improvisation, not just through the way we speak but to free our minds from stress and to help us to adapt in any scenario which we did not plan for.

Miguel Formosa is an emerging theatre performing whose project tackle both theatre and film. Such work includes 'Xi Tragedja' which was nominated for Premju għall-Arti's Best Production of the Year, and highly acclaimed KomduSkomdu.

Mono-Printing | Roderick Camilleri

The workshop is designed to give participants the opportunity to create their own original print and learn the elementary procedures of artistic monotype and mono-printing techniques. It will disclose some of the most intriguing processes of mark-making methods which can be used to produce a unique and expressive image.

Roderick Camilleri is an artist, curator, and art educator teaching studio practice and theory at the Malta School of Art in Valletta and the Vice-President of the Malta Society of Arts.

Future Fossils | Sheldon Saliba

Future Fossils delves into the fate of non-human inhabitants, primarily flora, concerning climate concerns such as rising sea levels. Predominantly centred around the impact on human life, this workshop will question the broader implications for non-human life in relation to evolving landscapes

How will native flora adapt to changing climates?

Throughout the workshop, participants will be exploring the evergrowing dependency on synthetic materials through the creation of concrete tiles embedded with found material and fragments of flora. As time passes, the organic matter embedded within the tiles created will degrade and erode, simply leaving the mark of what once was within the concrete.

Sheldon Saliba (b.2000) is a multidisciplinary visual artist based in Malta, with an interest in socio-environmental issues who explores landscapes in constant flux and investigates aspects related to the post-/Anthropocene.

Flamenco Rhythm and Dance | Deborah Falzon

No matter if you're a dance and music pro or just starting out, this inclusive workshop welcomes everyone to experience Flamenco as a powerful tool for amplifying your voice. Through its rich elements of song, music, rhythm and dance, we'll delve into the life stories embedded in the flamenco 'Tangos'.

Inspired by all that is encompassed in the human lived experience, Deborah Falzon, a Flamenco Dance Artist and Transcultural Counsellor, explores the intersection of dance and activism to nurture compassion and connection through collaborative artistic, educational and community practices.

Portrait photography | Dr Gilbert Calleja

In this hands-on workshop students will be guided through the basics of portrait photography. We will be looking at how to use both natural and artificial/studio lighting to explore, interpret and effectively communicate a sitter's character and mood.

Gilbert Calleja (b. 1978) is a documentary photographer and multimedia artist focusing on long-term socially engaged projects. He co-ordinates the Fine Arts course within the Art and Art History Department at the University of Malta.

Utopia? Dystopia? YOUR-topia! | Bettina Heufers and Martin Rudkowski

Future scenarios put on stage through body sculptures

Desperation because of wars and climate change or hope because of rising awareness and an ever-growing connection between different nations?

We want to explore possible future scenarios and put them on stage with the aid of body sculptures and freeze frames (based on expressive posture, gestures and facial expressions). After a short warming-up and a quick introduction to the topic and method, the participants develop their personal predictions and put their ideas to practice.

Bettina Heufers and Martin Rudkowski, both music and drama teachers at Geschwister-Scholl-Gesamtschule in Detmold, Germany.

Dance as Communication | Sara Accettura

The workshop consists of a creative dance session articulated around the theme of non-verbal language and communication. The framework of the class will follow the dance as art model by J. Smith-Autard, with the objective to provide an educational and fun setting for the participants to compose, share, and appreciate the work done in class.

Sara Accettura is a dance educator with a background as a performer, choreographer and dance teacher, as well as a strong expertise in inclusive settings. My research areas of interests are: the encounter between dance and autism, inclusive dance education for people with intellectual disabilities.

Poetry as a Spoken Word | Leanne Ellul

This workshop kicks off by briefly looking at the oral history of poetry. We will then move on to sample a couple of performances and look at the different definitions of this genre. Students can comment on their experience of spoken word in relation to their native language. The group is then divided into smaller groups; students will work together to come up with ideas on how to present a particular poem to a specific audience. We will then listen to each other and comment on improving the performances. We will listen, we will create, we will interact, we will speak poetry and breathe into it new life!

Leanne Ellul writes poetry and prose, and has published works for both adults and children mainly in Maltese but also in English. She was named Best Emerging Author in the 2016 National Book Prize, and her works for children have garnered various awards. Ellul lectures in Maltese language and literature and is active in NGOs organising a number of festivals and open mics, namely Inizjamed and HELA Foundation.

Dancing Unheard Voices: An Exploration in Movement and Expression | Nicole Zammit

This dance workshop begins with a gentle warm-up focusing on body connection and contact work. Participants then learn a floor phrase incorporating stretching and movement. We will also learn and perform a short phrase together. Following this, the theme “UNHEARD VOICES” will be explored through movement improvisation, where participants use gestures, with the option to incorporate voice as well. A brief cool down concludes the dance workshop, followed by a reflective closing session to share thoughts and experiences. This workshop offers a structured yet creative space for dancers to explore movement, and express themselves through improvisation within the context of unheard voices.

*Nicole Zammit focuses on contemporary dance and community work. A few years ago I trained and performed with *Holqa* dance group and now I am currently in my last year studying for a Bachelor in Dance Studies at the University of Malta.*

Dance Theatre | Chakib Zidi

The workshop will offer participants a transformative experience, fostering connection, empathy, and understanding while amplifying the voices of the marginalized and overlooked.

Chakib Zidi, a choreographer, dancer, and LGBTIQ activist based in Malta, has been commissioned by organizations such as Koppin, Valletta Capital City of Culture 2018, Zfin Malta, and the Malta International Arts Festival. His recent choreographic projects, including those with Refugee Week Festival and Euro-Pride Malta 2023, delve into themes of migration, borders, and minority experiences. As an activist, Chakib uses dance to explore concepts such as personal expression, collective freedom, gender fluidity, and healing justice. His freelance work aims to raise awareness for marginalized communities, challenge gender norms, and advocate for social and environmental causes, contributing to a more inclusive society.

A multilingual literary translation workshop | Dr Claudine Borg

In this multilingual workshop, language and literature converge in a celebration of cultural exchange. In the first part of the session, the participants will be introduced to some basic principles of literary translation. Next, some salient aspects of the text selected for translation will be discussed. Participants will then have a go at translating the text into their target language. Following this, a collective discussion will ensue, unraveling the diverse interpretations and linguistic choices made during the translation process.

Dr Claudine Borg holds a PhD in Translation Studies. She is a lecturer in Translation Studies at the University of Malta and a literary translator.

Three-Minute Stories: Lyric Writing Workshop | Noah Fabri

Brief: An introduction to narrative lyric writing, the process of telling a story through a single song. Participants will listen to a few samples and reflect on how their lyrics conjure up whole stories in just a couple of verses. This will be followed by a discussion on narrative techniques, creating mood, character and imagery, and how observational stories can reflect social and political concerns. We will then implement what we've discussed, writing our own narrative lyrics to a provided instrumental.

Noah Fabri studied anthropology and writes music and fiction. Fabri is mainly interested in gender, public space, walking and the effects of politics on everyday life. Fabri is part of the musical collective Karmağenn and the pop-up library Geğwiğija.

Discover the Art of Kirigami | Emily Farrugia

Kirigami is a traditional Japanese art form similar to the concept of origami in that it uses the technique of folding paper but goes one step further in cutting the paper as well. Join this workshop to discover the techniques behind flawless folds and precise cuts and unleash your creativity to endless possibilities of paper artistry.

Ms. Emily Farrugia is a Graphical Communication lecturer at the Junior College. She has a special interest in arts and crafts and expresses herself through painting, drawing, sewing and crochet.