



**LEATSS**  
LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN ANNUAL  
THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL

## LEATSS OnTour 2021 Basel

### Online Courses

Continuing the outreach programme of the LEATSS Theatre Summer School, the second 'LEATSS on Tour' will be held in collaboration with four theatre groups established in Basel:

**The Semi Circle**

**Betwixt & Between Theater**

**Basel English Panto Group**

**Boutique Theatre Basel.**

Courses will take place over 2 weekends, on **13/14** and **20/21 March**. Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic, the courses will once again be online. These are outlined below with details further down, after Timetable and Prices. All information is also published on the LEATSS website (<https://www.leadss.lu/2021/Course/Overview.php>) as well as those of the Basel groups, together with the biographies of the tutors.

**Applications** are to be made online on the LEATSS website (for details see PRACTICALITIES below).

#### COURSE OVERVIEW

Tutor: **George Ryan**

**Confidence and Power** (vocal release techniques)

45 €

Practical vocal and physical exercises to enable speaking with ease and confidence, exploring dynamics to enhance vocal power

5 hours (including breaks) on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

5 to 12 participants

Tutor: **George Ryan**

**The Power of Persuasion** (practical voice work)

45 €

Unlocking the power of persuasion through the exploration of speeches from the classical to the present day

5 hours (including breaks) on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

5 to 12 participants

Tutor: **Freddie Machin**

**A Whole New World** (writing for an online audience)

90 / 180 €

An exploration of how to create a new and real world through a sensory approach to writing (weekend 1) followed by a practical approach of how to assist in bringing new writing to the stage, in collaboration with the Creative Acting course participants (weekend 2)

Weekend 1: 10 hours (including breaks) spread over both days (Part 1)

Weekend 2: 10 hours (including breaks) spread over both days (Part 2)

Either a 10-hour course (Part 1) or a 20-hour course (Parts 1 and 2). (Part 2 cannot be taken separately.)

5 to 10 participants

Tutor: **Janice Dunn**

**In with the New** (creative acting experience)

90 / 180 €

An opportunity to experience acting techniques and exercises related to new work and its development (weekend 1), and then later to be part of a practical process where these skills and techniques are used, with the writers, on their freshly created material (weekend 2)

Weekend 1: 10 hours (including breaks) spread over both days (Part 1)

Weekend 2: 10 hours (including breaks) spread over both days (Part 2)

Either a 10-hour course (Part 1) or a 20-hour course (Parts 1 and 2). (Part 2 cannot be taken separately.)

5 to 12 participants

Tutor: **Graeme Du Fresne**

**Zoom in on Singing** (unison and two-part singing)

90 €

a course specifically designed for online work, maximising Zoom's potential for singing, with exercises to improve and develop technique and build confidence

10 hours (including breaks) over both days of the second weekend

5 to 12 participants

## TIMETABLE

Please use the timetable below to select your courses. Confirmed participants will be able to obtain an individualised timetable via the Student Area of the LEATSS website. Two versions are available: a listing and a graphic representation (both shown below).

Please note that courses take place at the same time each day. It is not possible to take courses that overlap.

The **Opening** and **Wrap-up** sessions are complementary sessions. It is recommended that all participants attend these sessions.

No breaks are indicated on the timetable. There will, of course, be breaks to allow participants to catch breath and avoid 'screen fatigue'. When the breaks occur and for how long will be decided by the tutors on an ad hoc basis in relation to what is happening in the class.

All times are CET (Luxembourg)

List version of timetable:

<b>Thur 11</b>	Room A	Technical Sessions	General session to test Zoom access	20:00 - 20:30 (for any student)
			Special needs for Singing	20:30 - 21:00 (for Singing students)
<b>Fri 12</b>	Room A	Introductory session	General information, meet tutors	20:00 - 21:00 (for all participants)
<b>Sat 13</b>	Room A	George Ryan	Vocal Technique	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	Room B	Freddie Machin	A Whole New World 1 (Playwriting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	Room C	Janice Dunn	In With the New 1 (Creative Acting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
<b>Sun 14</b>	Room A	George Ryan	Vocal Technique	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	Room B	Freddie Machin	A Whole New World 1 (Playwriting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	Room C	Janice Dunn	In With the New 1 (Creative Acting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
<b>Sat 20</b>	Room A	Graeme Du Fresne	Zoom in on Singing	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	<u>Collaboration (writing/acting):</u>			
	Room B	Freddie Machin	A Whole New World 2 (Playwriting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	Room C	Janice Dunn	In With the New 2 (Creative Acting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
<b>Sun 21</b>	Room A	Graeme Du Fresne	Zoom in on Singing	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	<u>Collaboration (writing/acting):</u>			
	Room B	Freddie Machin	A Whole New World 2 (Playwriting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
	Room C	Janice Dunn	In With the New 2 (Creative Acting)	10:00 - 15:00 (5 hours including breaks)
<b>Sun 21</b>	Room A	Freddie Machin & Janice Dunn	Sharing of new work produced during the Collaboration	18:00 - 19:30 (open for all participants and past LEATSS students)
	Room A	All tutors	Wrap-up (Closing Session)	19:30 - 19:45 (open for all participants)

A Virtual bar will be open in the evenings (Room A, for all participants):

Fri 12	from after Opening session
Sat 13	from 20:00
Sun 14	from 20:00
Sat 20	from 20:00
Sun 21	from after Closing session (19:45)

Graphic version of timetable:

Zoom room		10:00 - 15:00	18:00 - 19:30	19:30 - 20:00	20:00 - 21:00	21:00 - LATE
Thu 11	A					Technical
Fri 12	A					Intro → Bar
Sat 13	A	Vocal Technique				Virtual Bar
	B	A Whole New World 1 (Playwriting)				
	C	In With the New 1 (Creative Acting)				
Sun 14	A	Power of Persuasion				Virtual Bar
	B	A Whole New World 1 (Playwriting)				
	C	In With the New 1 (Creative Acting)				
Sat 20	A	Zoom in on Singing				Virtual Bar
	B	Playwriting 2 COLLABORATION				
	C	Creative Acting 2 COLLABORATION				
Sun 21	A	Zoom in on Singing		Sharing	Wrap	Virtual Bar
	B	Playwriting 2 COLLABORATION				
	C	Creative Acting 2 COLLABORATION				

**Technical:** 20:00 General session to test Zoom access  
20:30 Session for Singing students

**Sharing:** Sharing of new work produced during the workshop  
(open to all participants and LEATSS past students)

**Intro** Introductory session for all participants (30 mins)

**Wrap:** Short wrap-up (closing session)

**Bar:** Virtual Bar for all participants

**PRICES**

The following is the price per course:

Confidence and Power (George Ryan)		45 €	(5 h)
The Power of Persuasion (George Ryan)		45 €	(5 h)
Zoom in on Singing (Graeme Du Fresne)		90 €	(10 h)
A Whole New World (Freddie Machin)	Parts 1 & 2	180 €	(20 h)
	Part 1 only	90 €	(10 h)
In with the New (Janice Dunn)	Parts 1 & 2	180 €	(20 h)
	Part 1 only	90 €	(10 h)

Payment must be received by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Access to courses will be blocked until full payment is received.

Two full **scholarships** are offered by LEATSS. Any participant who would like to apply for a scholarship is requested to send a letter of motivation to admin @ leatss.lu. A third scholarship, open to participants from Basel is offered jointly by the four Basel groups. Applicants are requested to send a letter of motivation to basel @ leatss.lu.

## COURSE DETAILS

Tutor: **George Ryan**

**CONFIDENCE AND POWER** (vocal release techniques)

Practical vocal and physical exercises to explore the dynamics of enhancing vocal power

Ever wonder how some public speakers never seem to strain their voices or ever grow 'hoarse' after long periods of speaking? Or how some people always seem to exude confidence and are so assured in expressing themselves?

In this fun and engaging one-day course, we will explore practical vocal and physical exercises that can easily be performed in the comfort and privacy of your home, in order to enable you to begin to speak with ease and confidence. We will explore dynamics of release whereby the more we release physically the more powerful we become vocally.

Previous experience of vocal technique is not required to participate. We will explore both physical exercises and text to engage in imaginative vocal expression. We will also explore the physiology and anatomy of voice production and how this understanding will aid in maintaining your vocal health.

**5 hours**, including breaks, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

5 to 12 participants

Tutor: **George Ryan**

**THE POWER OF PERSUASION** (practical voice work)

Unlocking potential in powerful speeches

Have you ever marvelled at a public figure's ability to influence an audience with their words – even when you might completely disagree with their opinion? What these politicians and public figures use are the basic elements of classical rhetoric. In this one-day course we will look at 'political speeches' so that you too can learn these simple tools.

We will learn how to unlock the power of persuasion through the exploration of rhetorical forms from classical speeches to today's U.S. Congressional hearings. Through discussion and practical exercises, we will learn how to express our opinions to others in an effective and efficient manner.

This will be a no-pressure and enjoyable learning environment where you will be given an opportunity to deliver a short speech to the rest of the group and build your confidence in the process.

It is highly **recommended** that students interested in this course first attend the Saturday course on vocal release techniques.

**5 hours**, including breaks, on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

5 to 12 participants

Tutor: **Freddie Machin**

**A WHOLE NEW WORLD** (writing for an online audience)

Creating a new and real world through a sensory approach to writing, then bringing it to life in collaboration with the Creative Acting course students.

This playwriting workshop is an experiment in sensory theatre. How do we make an audience feel something when none of us are in the same room?

Part 1: The writing process will begin by taking inspiration from photographs, works of art, and music, asking questions in small groups about how the style, colour, and mood of certain pieces influence the world it conjures up.

We will then apply that same approach to drama, investigating how Caryl Churchill uses language, how she creates an earthy, human world in her play *Fen*, in contrast to the fleeting, imaginary spaces she carves out in *Love and Information*. And how do those contrasting worlds mesh together in a play like *Top Girls*? What can we learn from Churchill that will help us conjure up vivid sensations in our own writing, create atmosphere, and make the audience feel something?

We will then start writing in response to sensory and imaginative prompts such as: can we write a dramatic scene that transmits heat, or smells bad, or feels rough to the touch? I also want to venture into wacky imaginative worlds – how would you write a play that is like a plate of spaghetti, or a pack of wolves, or a tumble dryer?

The group will then decide on a single imaginary world where all our stories will take place. It may be a fictional planet in outer space, the rapids of the river Nile, or even a bowl of trifle. Whatever it is, individual writers will then work towards populating it with people and problems and language that stimulate vivid sensation.

Part 2: In the second weekend we will welcome Janice's group of actor-dramaturgs into our writers' room to lead the dramaturgical process. They will work with individual writers to read and investigate the scenes they have written in order to better understand what the rules are that govern this world, and how the characters are interconnected. And we will learn how to adapt a text to the needs of performance, without losing its scent or flavour.

Participants don't need to have any experience of writing dramatic texts, just an interest in exploring a whole new world through the medium of writing. But a good sense of smell and taste might be an advantage...

There will be a short (voluntary) **sharing** of this process, that is available to the wider workshop and LEATSS community, after the last session.

**10 or 20 hours** (including breaks):

Weekend 1: 5 hours per day (Part 1)

Weekend 2: 5 hours per day (Part 2)

Either a 10-hour course (Part 1) or a 20-hour course (Part 1 and 2). (Part 2 cannot be taken separately.)

5 to 10 participants

Tutor: **Janice Dunn**

**IN WITH THE NEW** (creative acting experience)

Part 1: Experiencing acting techniques and exercises related to new work and its development (this part of the course can be taken separately)

Part 2: Being part of a practical process where the skills and techniques from weekend 1 are used, with the writers, on their freshly created material

How do actors find their way without a map??

This is an acting course that explores ways to work with new plays, and new writing generally. It will allow us to jump into the exciting world of new work.

To go where no woman or man has gone before!

- How does the actor help shape a new piece?
- What can they bring to the character(s) and process?
- What is it like to work with the writer in the room?
- And what the hell is dramaturgy, and how do we do it?

The course is placed over two weekends; with the first exploring issues of text analysis, character development, and dramaturgy technique for the actor. It will be a lively, dynamic and fun process whereby we explore different types of new texts, via a series of different techniques: some character led, some story led, but all leading to a development of the material.

The second weekend offers a collaboration with the writers' group, to work together on new texts, especially written for the weekend. This process of collaboration will involve the actors' group practising the techniques from weekend one, on a series of new scenes. This will be done in smaller groups, with the support of Janice Dunn, and writers' group leader Freddie Machin.

The aim of this weekend is to give the experience of a new writing process in microcosm. It will not be pressured, or about making a 'performance'.

It isn't necessary to have any previous experience of this type of work to participate in the workshop. It will take place in a supported environment, and the emphasis will be on learning through fun and doing. It is not academic, but is based on practical acting techniques and choices.

It is possible to book either the first weekend as a stand-alone experience, or both weekends together. It is not possible to do only the second weekend (Part 2).

There will be a short (voluntary) **sharing** of this process, that is available to the wider workshop and LEATSS community, after the last session.

**10 or 20 hours** (including breaks):

Weekend 1: 5 hours per day (Part 1)

Weekend 2: 5 hours per day (Part 2)

Either a 10-hour course (Part 1) or a 20-hour course (Parts 1 and 2). (Part 2 cannot be taken separately.)

5 to 12 participants

Tutor: **Graeme Du Fresne**

**ZOOM IN ON SINGING** (unison and two-part singing)

A course specifically designed for online work, maximising Zoom's potential for singing

This will be a course for unison (choral) singing and two-part harmonies. We will be working on songs ranging from the Beach Boys classic *God Only Knows* to Stephen Sondheim's *Send In The Clowns*. We'll also go *Over The Rainbow* (Arlen/Harberg), and if there is time, down to *The Sea* (Trenet/Lawrence).

I will take you through exercises designed to improve and develop your technique, and to build confidence as we rehearse. The knowledge gained from a year's experience of working exclusively on-line has allowed me to find and develop ways of maximising zoom's potential for singing. I have therefore written bespoke choral arrangements especially for this course, which consist of sparse but helpful piano accompaniments.

TECHNOLOGY: This can be a daunting aspect if you've had little or no experience of software and gadgets in general but is actually not that difficult. I will run a training workshop on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March where we will go through all the devices and procedures required to get us all listening and seeing each other as clearly as possible. I have created a 'Zoom for Singing' help document which is in the Student Area on the LEATSS website.

## SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

More detailed biographies are available on the LEATSS website.

**George Ryan** is the Head of the Voice Department at Italia Conti Academy of Theatrical Arts on the BA Acting and HE Certificate courses in London, U.K., and has taught voice and text as well as been vocal coach at Shakespeare's Globe, Arts Educational School, Mountview, RADA Studios, Rose Bruford College and The Butterfly Theatre Company. George holds a BFA from Adelphi University, a diploma from American Academy of Dramatic Art and earned his MA in Voice Studies at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London.

**Freddie Machin** has written about a dozen plays which have been performed at venues including Chichester Festival Theatre, Colchester Mercury Theatre, and the Edinburgh Fringe. He is also the writer of the feature film *Chicken* (available on Amazon Prime) and teaches playwriting and screenwriting in London.

**Janice Dunn** trained at Bretton Hall College and subsequently with Wolfgang Stange (dance therapy), Geese Theatre (mask work), Odin Teatret, Denmark (physical theatre), Grotowski and Eugenio Barba (directing) and the Royal Shakespeare Company (Sue Lefton, movement/ mask). She has worked as a director and choreographer with professional companies, students and youth theatres and was associate director at the *Belgrade Theatre, Coventry* (1996 -99). Janice continued these strands of work at the *Mercury Theatre, Colchester*.

In addition to producing a number of plays, she has written and produced her own work including a number of highly rated pantomimes. She has co-written a new play for young people, published and performed in Denmark.



**Graeme Du Fresne**'s work with LEATSS stretches back to 1994. He has worked in professional theatre as Musical Director, arranger and composer for 30 years on productions ranging from musicals, pantomimes and plays. For many years he also worked as an actor on stage and screen. He is head of singing on the BA Acting course at Italia Conti in London.

## PRACTICALITIES

**Applications:** These are to be made online on the LEATSS website ([www.leadss.lu/Applications/Applications.php](http://www.leadss.lu/Applications/Applications.php)). Places will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. Applications will close on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Participants will receive an email confirmation together with details of payment.

Waiting lists will be created should demand exceed capacity. **If proof of payment has not been received by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**, these places will be forfeited and given to the next on the waiting list.

**Technical support:** Courses will be run on Zoom. In order to explain the technical requirements and answer any questions relating to Zoom and computer equipment, two short online sessions will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March:

20:00 CET – general Zoom use. All paid-up participants will be invited to attend. If you are not familiar with Zoom, this will be the occasion to ensure you come up to date and are able to log in.

20:30 CET – Singing course. Particularities for singing on Zoom as outlined in the course description.

In addition, a technician will be available at a help desk before, during and after each session. Participants will be given a number to call in case of need.

**Younger participants:** LEATSS is primarily an adult school. However, some of the courses offered by LEATSS On Tour could well be suitable for younger people, especially if they have had some training (youth theatre group, school, etc.) or have a particular interest. If you fall in this category, you will be asked about your interest/experience when you apply.

## AFTER HOURS

**Virtual Bar:** LOT Basel will operate an online bar every weekend evening from 20:00, which will be open to all LOT participants. This provides a possibility to meet at the end of the day to chill and chat – and enjoy ourselves. Participants will receive a link to this LOT Bar.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the regular LEATSS Summer School Virtual bar will operate from 21:00. All LOT Basel participants are also welcome to attend. The link will be posted on the LEATSS Facebook page.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at [admin @ leatss.lu](mailto:admin@leatss.lu) or [basel @ leatss.lu](mailto:basel@leatss.lu) (for Basel area) should you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you online,

Graeme Du Fresne (Course Director)

Richard Brown (Basel Coordinator)

John Brigg (LEATSS)