

ORCHESTRAL THEATRE TRAINING COURSE 2018

Haitham Assem Tantawy
SINAI Orchestral Theatre



Photo by C. Desnoyers

I) COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is intended for musicians, singers and actors/performers who would like to broaden their performing skills and strengthen their stage presence, working within a transdisciplinary environment of ensemble musical and physical theatre.

Throughout a period of 8 weeks, participants will go through a rigorous process of regular physical, vocal, acting and musical training. The process aims at unleashing the full potential of the body of the performer as a channel for authentic human expression and communication, further sharpening the performer's awareness and creative perception within ensemble work. Through work on movement, music, songs and acting, the sessions will focus on "integration"; on how training approaches in one discipline of the performing arts inform and enrich other disciplines, searching for a holistic form of profound artistic expression on stage.

Participant Profile

- 1) The musician who would like to explore their physicality in relationship to their instrument, linking imagination and physical actions to enrich the artistic content of their music and bring forth the musician as an actor on stage.
- 2) The singer who would like to explore new territories of using song and sound as a medium for dramatic narration, integrating movement-based approaches and physical actions to their practice.
- 3) The actor who would like to explore musical- and physical-based approaches in working with text, researching expressive physical and vocal forms in portraying characters.



Photo by Sebastianovich

The following offers more detailed information about our training methodology and fields covered by the course:

1) EMBODIED MUSICALITY

Our body functions based on precise inner rhythms and innate musicality that exist inside each one of us, however often weakly sensed due to the daily surrounding environmental influences. In our training we aim to re-awaken the physical sensations stimulating our body-mind awareness of “inner music”. Our growing capacity for listening and connecting with ourselves will allow us

to reach for channels of articulating our internal musical dynamism to the outside; this being either through an instrument, song, movement or speech. In our work at SINAI Orchestral Theatre we regard music as an embodied 'way of being' in space and time and as a source of harmonious bonding with others.

2) ACTING & IMAGINATION

Imagination is a product of conscious effort that we partake in reaction to aesthetic stimulants around us. It opens the door to a different perception of space and time, of who we are in the moment, and how we relate to others in a shared space. In the heart of the work of SINAI Orchestral Theatre lies our methodology of collectively crafting a heightened and immersive aesthetic experience during our training, unlocking the imaginative power of the performer. Through our exercises and improvisations, we search for fluidity and flow in actions, intentions and associations, learning how to give significance and meaning to movement, gestures and sounds. The resulting interactions open a landscape for our imagination to create characters and enrich them with vivid stories.

3) THE ELEMENT OF RITUAL

From the early stages of our work, SINAI Orchestral Theatre has been weaving the threads of spiritual physical and vocal practices into the texture of its research and productions. Such practices that stem out of the mystic traditions in religions serve as rituals, which trigger intimate encounters with our emotions and thoughts. They activate our senses to function on another level of consciousness beyond the daily level of social life. In our training, we provide a safe environment for experiencing these practices, learning how to master the energetic transformation we go through as part of their journey. Further we explore how such experiences can be translated and shared in theatre, providing a doorway for a more vulnerable presence of the self and a truthful connection with the partners and the audience.

4) THE ENSEMBLE

Finding unity through diversity and seeking oneness out of the many is an ethos encompassing all aspects of our work. The Ensemble in the philosophy of SINAI Orchestral Theatre is both the container and the mirror of the knowledge we develop; a reflection of how we perceive ourselves with our unique backgrounds, traditions and personal stories, and how we exercise this presence in relationship to the 'other'. During the training process we put a strong emphasis on contact and exchange. We continuously exercise collective tuning, togetherness and listening to one another on all different levels; somatically, energetically and soulfully. We work towards finding the strength in the collective, which empowers the individual, making the ensemble a resonator for personal subtleties and intimate encounters.

II) DOKUMENTATION MATERIAL

To gain some insight into the dynamics and environment of our work, we encourage to have a look at the following documentation material of the work:

Workshops:

a) <https://www.flickr.com/gp/126922380@N07/631kV1>

b) <https://flic.kr/s/aHskkJYEd1>

Production Trailer> Yusuf's:

<https://vimeo.com/197006415>

Production Trailer> Preludes of Orchestral Theatre:

<https://vimeo.com/134496267>

III) COURSE INFO

TIME:

Over a span of 8 weeks (no drop in & out)
Thursday 25th of January until Friday 16th of March, 2018
Weekly, each Thursday and Friday from 13.00 till 16.00.

PLACE:

Studio Phynix Tanzt Berlin, Hasenheide 54, 10967 Berlin.

FEE:

(Entire Period - Could be paid in two installments):

- 220 € (Early bird until 13. January 2018 / Students)

- 250 € (Normal Price)

REGISTRATION:

Application at > orchestraltheatre@gmail.com

You will be emailed back with an application form.

(We encourage early reservation as places are limited).

The course requires commitment to the training sessions.

IV) COURSE LEADER

Haitham Assem Tantawy is a theatre director, actor trainer, musician and actor from Cairo. He lives and works in Berlin since 2011. Haitham received his Master degree in theatre directing from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - University of London in the UK. He then attended intensive training programs in Italy at The workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, as well as at Song of the Goat Theater in Poland, where he has been involved as an actor in two of the company's productions in 2016. Haitham received his musical education within the course of an 8-year study at the Associated Board of the Royal Schools Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in piano and music theory. He developed his own training and directing methods for ensemble work in music-theater and gives regular workshops in Germany and Poland. In 2015 he founded the SINAI Orchestral Theater in Berlin, which has produced two music theater productions. The last production "YUSUF'S" was funded by the Senate Chancellery for cultural affairs and Fonds Darstellende Künste (Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media).

