

Footsbarn Theatre



Since 1971

WORKSHOP

Exploring Shakespeare Through Voice and Body
7th-14th September 2023, La Chaussée, Maillet, France
with Ben Joiner and Sadie Jemmett



The body knows things about which the mind is ignorant
(Jaques Lecoq - *The Moving Body*)

Footsbarn Travelling Theatre (established 1971) partners with voice and movement teacher, **Ben Joiner**, for an exciting 7 day actors' workshop based around the exploration of Shakespeare's beloved *Midsummer Nights Dream*

The workshop will take place in Footsbarn's iconic Grand Chapiteau (big top tent) and will be hosted at their site, [La Chaussee](#), a renovated farm set deep in the French Countryside with male and female dormitory accommodation for up to 30 people.

The workshop will be conducted in English but students are welcome to bring material to work on that is in the language they feel most comfortable with.

Students are invited to pick a character and learn a monologue from the play, which can then be explored through movement, voice, mask and improvisation over the 7 day period.

The subject of this particular play naturally invites us to explore the rich and creative surroundings of Footsbarn's home. Site-specific work will feature strongly allowing the actor to experience the sense of freedom this can give us.

The workshop will use movement, breath and voice as an entry point into self-awareness, emotional range and imaginative fluency. Each day the actors will be supported in developing these skills alongside their ensemble work, character development and shared practice.



*To free the voice is to free the person
(Kristin Linklater - Freeing the Natural Voice 2006 ed)*

We invite you to dissolve the rigidity of intellectual conditioning, drop down into the body and explore a sensory process that invites the performer to act out of their own creativity and visceral responses.

This will involve an approach that initially overrides the clamour of the rational brain. Preconceptions around the text and language will be disrupted prior to a deeper investigation. The rhythms, sounds and images of the text will merge with the actor's own felt experience, emotional storehouse, open mind and sense of play. Our stories and characters will then re-emerge, refreshed and full of vitality ready to be shared in the icon space of the Footsbarn Big Top Tent in a free and open performance.

Workshop practioners



Ben Joiner's workshop is heavily influenced by his experience as a dancer, actor, Feldenkrais practitioner and his designation to teach Kristin Linklater's voice work. Other influences include the work of Sandford Meisner, the principles of Michael Chekov and Contact Improvisation.



Sadie Jemmett is the Artistic Director of Footsbarn Travelling Theatre. She brings with her over 20 years worth of experience as a Composer, Performer, Writer and Director. working with the methods of Jaques Lecoq, Sadie will explore the colours, elements, and materials of the world that can be used to enhance and discover a character as well as chorus work in both body and voice.

Prices

price of course: 550 euros

price of food and accommodation: 200 euros for 7 days

some bursaries available on request

For all bookings and further details please contact sadie@footsbarn.com