

Movement & Puppetry Workshop

Connection, Breath & Synergy

Workshops for Theatre Companies, Schools,
Universities, Drama Schools and more

Led by Olivier Award Winning
Actor & Puppeteer Tom Stacy



Tom Stacy

Workshop Leader



Starring in *Life of Pi & War Horse* as well as a number of award winning shows with movement & puppetry at the heart of their story telling, Tom has toured workshops both nationally and internationally. He brings a depth of knowledge and enthusiasm to all his workshops, creating an environment to educate, engage and encourage.

Tom was the Associate for Movement & Puppetry on *Life of Pi* and has been a Puppetry Practitioner for the *National Theatre Learning Department*, as well as independently leading workshops focusing on the main principles of Bunraku puppetry and ensemble movement.

Tom believes that puppetry can provide not only actors, but anyone, with the tools to be more creative, compassionate and confident in themselves. When working with others puppetry demands you be open, without ego, and to engage your imagination and sense of play fully. It will challenge you, but if you commit, you are rewarded back like nothing else.

"... a masterful grasp of mask-work, puppetry and physical theatre".

- Exeunt Magazine on 'The Marked'

"Theatrical magic... Puppetry that has to be seen to be believed."

- Metro on 'War Horse'

"It's no criticism to say the puppets seem more fully alive than the other human characters"

- Evening Standard on 'Life of Pi'

"A puppet masterclass. Sparkle and Dark's storytelling has class and power"

- The Independent on 'I am Beast'



Aims and Outcomes

The workshop aims to provide participants with:

- An enhanced understanding of the fundamentals of puppetry and ensemble work
- An experience of a professional rehearsal process
- Increase participants confidence in group work & presenting work
- Provide the tools needed to pursue puppetry further

Participants will be exploring core skills including:

- Focus & Breath
- Communication Skills
- Ensemble & Group work
- Performance & Presentation skills



Workshops for all: who can benefit?

Practitioners of all levels

Whether you're new to theatre or established and looking to gain more skills, a '**Fundamentals of Puppetry workshop**' will supply you with the tools needed to pursue this art form further. Whether providing you with a skill set to create your own work, or by simply pushing yourself as an actor, director or practitioner, the workshop is designed for you.

Drama Schools

Drama schools, Universities and existing institutions can benefit hugely from a foundational puppetry course, whether short or long term. From actors to directors the course is for you. Providing a professional working rehearsal environment, participants will gain a deeper understanding of ensemble work, stagecraft, devising, the actor's role in puppetry and much more.

Schools & College

From Key stage 3 to 6th Form, students of all levels can gain confidence and knowledge from the 'Introduction to Puppetry workshop'. The course can be adapted to each age range, and all students will learn skills in communication, working in groups, presentation skills, the fundamentals of puppetry and a taste of working in the arts.

Theatre Advisor

If you have either a new or an existing production with elements of puppetry or movement, you can book sessions for whatever the specific needs of your show are. Workshops from introductory exploration sessions, to working on particular scenes in mind, the content is adapted to best suit your requirements.



Example Workshop Overview

Section One

After some warm up and focus games to get the participants both physically and mentally ready for the work ahead, this section will focus on introducing some key principles: **Engage/Listen/Trust/Imagination**. We will follow the same set up as a professional rehearsal.

Section Two

Is where we get straight to work with the Principles of Puppetry. We will discuss what is needed to bring these puppets, these 'inanimate objects' to life. Exploring such principles as breath and weight, through to emotion and thought, participants will be able to make their own puppets and bring them to life using all that we have learnt.

There will be opportunities to both watch and share initial discoveries with their own one person puppet, before we move onto working in the art of Bunraku Puppetry - three person puppets. This section will focus on exploring the key elements: **Principles/Technique/Exploration/Discover**. This is where participants will start getting to grips with working as a team.

Section Three

This is where we build upon everything we have learnt so far and focus on **Story telling/Meaning/Performance/Conclusion**. Participants will have created their own three person puppet, from a 'paper person' to a 'baby foal', and using the principles learnt in section two, they will explore bringing them to life in ever developing scenarios.

How does a puppet run? How would it Swim? How do we show a change in emotion? What if two puppets meet? How do we show status? What happens if it meets a human?

Finally, participants will have the opportunity to bring all of the learning and exploration together in a final performance.

Wrap up

By the end of the session, participants will reflect on everything they have achieved in just a short time. No matter what their level before, they will have experienced a professional rehearsal process, created and presented work, worked in an ensemble and have the confidence to pursue puppetry and the arts further. They will be able to keep the puppets they have made and will have time for questions about **Puppetry, Acting and the Industry**. Above all, participants can feel proud about their work and effort.

Workshop Options

The workshop is available in any tailor made length depending on your requirements, and each session can be adapted to your particular needs. Whether you only have an hour or if you have a whole week to dedicate to a workshop, the overview explained above will follow the same process no matter the length. Of course the longer the workshop the deeper we can delve into the boundless world of puppetry, but it also guarantees nothing is lost in shorter workshops.



1 Hour

A one hour workshop will provide participants an introduction and understanding in the fundamentals of puppetry and ensemble work, giving participants the experience of a professional rehearsal process, whilst providing the tools needed to pursue puppetry further.

90mins - 2 Hours

A 90 to 120 Minute workshop will provide participants an enhanced understanding of the fundamentals of puppetry with a greater focus on Bunraku puppetry. Ensemble work will be with a strong focus on performance, which will give participants the experience of a professional rehearsal process, whilst providing the tools needed to pursue puppetry further.

Half or Full Day

A longer workshop will not only provide participants with an enhanced understanding of the fundamentals of puppetry and ensemble work, but will also explore in greater detail the role of the puppeteer in both rehearsals and performance. Participants will not only create a number of devised performances, but will also be able to take all created puppets away to continue their journey into the art form further.

Online

An online workshop is usually between 30 mins to 1 hour and will provide participants an introduction and understanding in the fundamentals of puppetry, with a focus on character and storytelling. All materials needed can be found inside the home. A great introduction, participants will have time to ask further questions on all things puppetry and industry based.

Bookings

If you would like to book a workshop or have any questions, please get in touch.

Phone: 07412374356

Email: puppetry.tom@gmail.com

Testimonials...

"I got so much out of the workshop, I had never done any puppetry before and by the end felt confident to even make things up on the spot! Will be back!"

Eli Kent

"I would really really recommend this workshop, from the games to the performances, every moment was interesting and informative. It really is an incredible moment when you see a puppet come to life!"

Dylan Kelly

"Tom was fantastic with the students, he had their attention right from the start and was encouraging the whole time, the final performances were of a very high standard and a lot of fun was had."

Marianne Infante

"So much fun and so informative, I learnt so much and Tom was great at explaining all the techniques whilst allowing us to discover the rest in our groups. Thank you."

John Rata

