



International Centre of Space Applied Dramaturgy

The International Centre of Space Applied Dramaturgy aims to train professionals to explore the dramaturgical potential of space and the narrative capacity of a body in relation to distances.

A cultural incubator for actors, set designers, visual artists, directors and performers interested in experimenting with site-specific performative and installation constructions, discovering the design of place and the narrative environment. A place to study, experiment and engage with academics and professionals from the European scene.



Duration | april-semptember 2023

Frequency | Classes and in-person workshops over four weeks 14/21 april, 17/22 july, 24/29 july, 22/29 september

Course venue | Palermo and (1 week) Alcamo

Lecturers | Paul Allain, Pete Brooks, Zoukak Theatre Company, Deepan Sivaraman

Language | Classes and workshops in English

Application deadline | 30 march 2023

Cost | The course is free of charge

For information | info@associazionemeno.org

CeSDAS is directed by Andrea Cusumano

Artist, academic, theatre director and curator of Italian and British nationality. Lecturer in Theatre Organisation and Management at the University of Palermo, he has taught theatre, environmental installation, performance and set design at Central Saint Martins college of Art and Design, Goldsmiths and Rose Bruford College in London. He has also had collaborations with the University of Washington, NYU Abu Dhabi, PQ Prague, American DERE Athens, Open University, University DeMontfort Leicester and ISA Salzburg. He is a founding member of the ESI-European Scenography Initiative. Between 2014 and 2019, he was Cultural Councillor of the city of Palermo promoting and managing the Manifesta 12 and Capitale Italiana della Cultura 2018 projects. He is the creator and Artistic Director of BAM - Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo, Artistic Director of Letterature Festival Internazionale in Rome. He is a member of the Cultural Advisory Board of the British Council, a member of the Board of Directors of Manifesta 14, and a member of the Board of the Fondazione Orestiadi di Gibellina. As an artist, he has focused his work on researching the dramaturgical potential of space applied to different artistic disciplines from theatre to site-specific installations and music, and has presented his work at prestigious international festivals and venues including New York, Edinburgh, New Delhi, Salzburg, Naples, Modena, Valencia, Vienna and Rome. He is the permanent conductor of the orchestra of H. Nitsch's O.M.Theatre for which he has conducted world premieres in Cuba, Verona, Vienna, Mexico City, Leipzig, Leipzig, Bonn and Berlin.

CeSDAS is coordinated by Associazione MeNO

CeSDAS proposes an intensive research and experimentation course aimed both at young people who want to approach the practices of dramaturgy applied to space, and at artists and professionals who have already gained experience and want to experiment with new artistic and performance methods.

The intensive course embraces all areas of performativity, from theatre in the strict sense to Live Art and environmental installation, to explore the dramaturgical potential of space and experiment with narrative environments and site-specific performative and installation constructions.

Comprising four weeks of face-to-face training, the intensive course includes 120 hours of workshop practice designed to engage students in research and experimentation in accordance with Anglo-Saxon practice-as-research and peer-learning methodologies.

The course takes a pragmatic and strongly transdisciplinary approach to experimenting with different methodologies, capable of stimulating individual potential and expanding students' creative abilities.

Frontal lectures in theory, history and technique are flanked by dynamic workshops and individual or group projects resulting from specific teacher assignments. The production contact with the professionals involved, all protagonists of the international academic scene, is aimed at stimulating a comparison functional to learning and curriculum development.

A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the Course.

PROGRAMME

FIRST WEEK (14-21 April) - Palermo

PAUL ALLAIN in "THE TOTAL ACT IN TOTAL SPACE"

If we start with and from the principles and practices of Jerzy Grotowski, we have only the body in space. Minimal perhaps, but for theatre and performance, this is already more than enough: the body is always with others, performers and spectators, in motion and inhabiting its own and other spaces. It has extraordinary capacity once organised and trained.

We will begin with training and voice and body exercises and then examine how to progress from group exercises into action, physical and vocal, in a given space. This space is to be determined by the students but they must prioritise key physical principles such as alignment, grounding, awareness, resonance and focus. Participants will then use these tools and approaches to create and present short ensemble performance etudes under close guidance and responding to peer feedback.

Through lectures, screenings and discussion, this practice will be placed in a context of Polish and contemporary European and Asian theatre, examining the implications of key terms such as the Total Act, *via negativa*, natural environment and animal energy.

Students do not need prior theatre or performance experience but must have a desire to explore practically and to move their bodies and work with their voice. Students need to learn off by heart in advance a short 1-minute soliloquy in their mother tongue (or English if confident enough) which they can then use in the training. This should be from a classical text – play, story or poem and – have a poetic rather than domestic or daily dimension. Basic and ideally intermediate English language competence is required of all students.



Paul Allain is Professor of Theatre and Performance at the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. As well as working as a Movement Director and actor trainer for institutions such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, he has published extensively on actor training and contemporary performance processes as both author and editor in books, DVDs, articles and online, with a particular focus on contemporary Polish theatre and Suzuki Tadashi.

His most recent project, <https://thedigitalperformer.co.uk>, examined how we might embody physical actor training digitally. Paul is a specialist on Jerzy Grotowski and Gardzienice Theatre Association, with whom he collaborated extensively, and has been awarded the Witkacy prize as well as a medal by the Polish government, recognising his services to promoting Polish culture overseas.

SECOND WEEK (17-22 July) - Palermo

PETE BROOKS in "EXPANDING SCENOGRAPHY"

The course aims to investigate the boundaries between cinematic narrative and performance dramaturgy, through an innovative and immersive use of scenography and multimedia. Students will experiment with digital media and live performance, creating small scale works and exploring the dramaturgical potentiality of space and virtuality.



Pete Brooks is a British director and academic. He has worked with UK theater company Imitating the dog since 2004, leading on directing performance, and also teaches at Central Saint Martin's in London. Pete has a long history of making original theatre work as well as having directed both classics and commercial musicals.

His performance research is of a practical and theoretical nature, creating performances, which are based on observing the drama of everyday life, collecting materials from culture and imposing them on physical and psychological space. His work is an oscillation of matrixed and non-matrixed performance and includes improvisation, mistakes, fear, as well as premeditated designs and actions.

THIRD WEEK (24-29 July) - Alcamo

THE ZOUKAK THEATRE COMPANY - Beirut

This course will delve into the way that Zoukak operates as a company, collaboratively and with an emphasis on process and the act of creation. We will emphasize collaborative creation, leading participants to take part in developing original performance material together, through various processes of generating content, including writing, improvisation, physical movement, scene building, site specific work, research and active reflection. The multifaceted nature of devised theatre will be explored, from the more intuitive and spontaneous approaches to theatre making to the more constructed methods, leading to composition, which is essentially the process of assembling, editing, and re-shaping individuals' various productions and experiences, to form a final performance piece. The course will explore various ways of conceiving ideas and forming personal views within the broadest social and political contexts inherent to the group, springing from the personal connections of each individual to the subject matter.

Zoukak will propose tools of creating content, building narratives and instigating actions by a layering of personal stories, local stories, mythology and political events; making use of iconography and cliché. The participants will be invited to listen to the stories of the buildings and spaces of the city, to weave their own stories around them and find creative ways to inhabit those spaces with their narratives. The work will evolve around the multiple bodies of the city, the performative bodies with the history and politics they carry, the bodies inherent within the stories and the various narratives that can be generated through these encounters. The participants will have the opportunity to experiment within a non-linear process of creation that will incorporate their various and multiple inputs and merge into a comprehensive dramaturgy that will carry a specific narrative bound to the moment, space of creation, circumstances, various practices, and persons involved.



FOURTH WEEK (22-29 September) – Palermo

DEEPAN SIVARAMAN – OXYGEN THEATRE COMPANY

The course aims at exploring the link between scenography, space and text. Developing compositional strategies for visual performance inspired by dramatic texts. The approach will look at post-colonial Indian theatrical practices as well as western avantgarde and world theatre.



Deepan Sivaraman is a theatre director, scenographer, dramaturge and academic based in Delhi. Deepan is the founding Artistic Director of Oxygen Theatre Company, that has produced some of the most innovative works in Indian theatre in the recent history.

During the last 20 years of his theatre career, he has designed and directed more than 70 theatre productions for various companies and academic institutions in India and Europe. Some of his notable works have been performed in several important theatre festivals around the world including Avignon, Alameda, Edinburgh, Prithvi, ITFOK, META and Bharat Rang Mahotsav. He was awarded Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarship in 2003, The Kerala Sangeet Nataka Academy Award for theatre direction in 2012 and Mahindra Excellence National Theatre Awards in 2010 for Best Director, Scenographer and Choreographer.

HOW TO ENROL

Send your CV, a motivational letter and completed and signed registration form to info@associazionemeno.org by 30/03/2023.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered. Preference will be given to last year's CESDAS participants.

FREE OF CHARGE AND BENEFITS

Attendance of the course is free of charge.

In addition, shared accommodation will be provided for the week in Alcamo, free of charge for participants.

However, participants are required to attend all four weeks of the course.



International Centre of Space Applied Dramaturgy

**INTENSIVE COURSE ON RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION IN SPACE DRAMATURGY PRACTICES
APRIL | JULY | SEPTEMBER 2023**

APPLICATION FORM

The undersigned _____

born in _____ (____) on ___ / ___ / _____,

resident in _____ (____) address _____

C.F. _____

Mobile phone _____ email _____

ASKS

to be admitted to the intensive research and experimentation course on space dramaturgy practices scheduled for four weeks in April, July and September 2023.

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED

CV

Motivational letter

Place and date

Signature

CONSENT TO THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA - Pursuant to art. 7 EU Reg. 2016/679 and Legislative Decree 196 of 30/06/2003, I hereby declare that I am informed that the personal data collected will be processed, also by computer, exclusively within the scope of the procedure for which this declaration is made and that the undersigned has all the rights provided for by art. 7 of the same law.

AUTHORISATION FOR IMAGE USE - I hereby authorise the MeNO Association to use the images, if any, that may see my presence as a learner and participant.

I declare that I expressly accept the conditions and rules of CeSDAS and the operating procedures that will be given for the use of lectures and participation in workshops and field trials.

Place and date

Signature
