Rookery Farm Bungalow, Saxmundham Rd, Framlingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 9PH

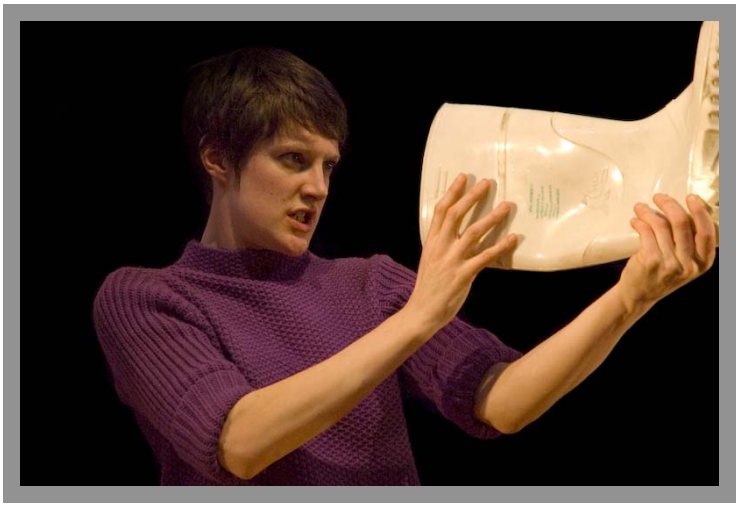
Workshop: From animals to characters

Content of the workshop.

The Harbour is a modern re-telling of an old selkie story. The characters are all based on animals found in and around a port. Seals, sharks, fish, and birds were used by the company as starting points, and inform the physicality and emotional state of the characters, as well as the overall style of the piece.

This workshop looks at the links between animal and human behaviour and uses animals as a spring board for creating characters, asking what can we learn about human nature through observation of the animal kingdom?

The students begin by exploring the physical movement and articulation of different animals. Creating these physical masks enables the students to begin to embody and explore the animal's "state." From here, the students are encouraged to play with the dosage of animal and human, and find behavioural links between them. Placing animals in human situations, we look at what there is to be learned about how people behave in different contexts (what happens when a group of penguins go on a tour in an art gallery?) and the inherent comedy/tragedy provoked when different animals meet.



Skills learned

Students will have the opportunity to:

• Transfer their observations to physical representation through deconstructing the movement of an animal.

• Create characters based on the physical mask and emotional state of their chosen animal.

• Make character choices, deciding which aspect of their animal informs their human character.

• Identify the inherent dynamic between different animals and explore how it can be transposed to human situations.

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