

THE BERTOIA METHOD FOR DEVISING THEATRE

dynamic, fluid, curious, playful engagement

Embrace a dynamic method of devising performance with Vancouver theatre artist Susan Bertoia. Her invigorating, innovative approach and process is primarily through playful engagement of people of all ages. Her method is familiar, yet new and unique to each moment that occurs in the studio. Workshops and residency are fluid and are adapted to the impulses of the participants. Teachers and professionals engaging with Susan will begin the process through initial conversations about the contextual curiosities of the ensemble in order to support a community agreement and an inclusive creative arena. Then, from there... the magic begins.

“Susan’s quick thinking and creative mind is genius. Her dramatic flair and comedic skill are nearly as wonderful as her upbeat personality.” Education Theatre Association Online Workshop 2021

Possibilities and Outcomes

- **Devise** original work from prompts and physical movements
- **Process** vs. Product driven
- **Explore** non-human and non-textual elements (space, lights, sound, set pieces, etc.)
- **Participate creatively** as members of an ensemble and as a solo artist
- **Take risks** and move beyond habitual comfort zones
- **Embody** greater physical presence and embrace the power of movement and stillness
- **Increase awareness** of gestures, movement, and body language as well as thoughts, feelings, breath, and imagination as it pertains to performance and devising theatre
- **Discover** how to embody a character and personalize a piece of text
- **Build confidence** performing or presenting before an audience
- **Engage** in mask work (neutral, emotion, character and commedia dell’arte)

DETAILS ON WORKSHOP/RESIDENCY

FEES – contact me and we’ll make it work STARTING AT \$150 CD/session

LENGTH/TIMES: Workshop: 1- 5hrs. Residency: 1 week to 1 month or more

METHOD OF DELIVERY: **In-person*** or **online classes** (both highly engaged)

AVAILABILITY 2022: JANUARY – JUNE M-F 8:00-4:00PM (dates and times to be confirmed)

** Travel fees apply to outside of Vancouver Lower Mainland, BC Canada*

“Susan helped to take our new work to the next level - even through ZOOM! She quickly connected to the students and the work. She took what we had, honoured the choices that had been made, and offered fabulous new ones that helped push us into new places. I am so thrilled we took this opportunity to work with Susan through a digital platform.” Lana O'Brien, Teacher at Vernon Secondary School, 2021

CONTACT

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Susan is a teacher who inspires learning. Not a moment goes wasted in any workshop, class or rehearsal led by her! Working with her is constant play. She fosters an environment where taking risks isn't scary, but instead, so so very rewarding. Susan has taught me the role and power my body has in storytelling, and that no matter how profound the work I'm doing is, it is still possible to have fun every step of the way! Erin Purghart, Theatre Artist & UBC BFA in Acting Grad, 2021

BIO: Susan Bertoia is a professional theatre artist, performer, director, deviser, writer, passionate drama teacher. Susan's artistic style with specialization in physical theatre and mask performance explores transposing the poetry of life into the comedic and dramatic moments for the stage. Susan is an **Adjunct Professor** at UBC teaching acting and mask performance. She has received numerous grants through **ArtStarts** and facilitates professional development workshops with ETAC and ABCDE with whom she was awarded the '**Excellence in Drama Education**'; as well has presented at the **Canadian Association for Theatre Research** Conference. Further accolades: Outstanding Performance (lead actress) and Gordon Armstrong Theatre Artist Award through Vancouver Jessie Richardson's Award. Performances include: PuSh International Festival, Arts Club Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, Firehall Theatre and Richmond Gateway Theatre. Recently Susan devised and directed Juggle Me Not (a touring outdoor commedia show) through a grant from **AXIS Theatre** and was commissioned by the **Vancouver International Children's Festival** to be creative director for an outreach film Project Element with professional, emerging and youth artists from Vancouver and Smithers, BC. Training: BFA in Theatre Acting UBC; abroad at schools that specialize in Italian mask theatre: Ill Piccolo Teatro di Milano with **Giorgio Strehler** and **Donato Sartori** International Mask Workshop); **One Yellow Rabbit**; **Jeremy James** and UK's **Frantic Assembly**.