JUDITH CHAPLIN- FLEMING BIOGRAPHY

Judith studied acting and graduated from NIDA. Judith has enjoyed acquiring 23 years performing, directing, writing, producing industry experience and taught the NIDA ‘Open Program’ for 4 years.

Judith is the owner and co-founder of the business Music Theatre Bootcamp. A children’s holiday program focused on developing primary aged children’s interest and talent in the field of performance.

Judith has written, produced and performed her own play in a successful season of for the Melbourne fringe festival 2010.

Other writing credits include dramaturgy work on Joseph and his Amazing Technicolored Dream Coat and Mary Poppins.

Judith also writes additional material for Music Theatre Bootcamp each week the program runs.

Judith has co-directed and worked as a drama coach 2010-2011 for Fitzroy Community School production.

Currently Judith is teaching, acting for camera and script analysis Verve Acting Studio and Audition Techniques at 16th Street Acting Studio.

COURSE OUTLINE

Acting Project for Preshil

My weekly acting class will provide students a taste of different ways of approaching scripts, energetic interpretation and character development. The classes will build week by week, and I would like to explore the possibility of a Camp Workshop, where more intense work can be done using all of the skills developed in the program.

Stage 1 - Stanislavsky technique: Stanislavsky uses the plotting of conscious physical actions and intentions through a script to arouse an emotional response in the actor, which in turn informs action and intention in performance. A large part of this technique works to break down a script into units and objectives, which can be easily analysed. I will guide the students through this process as we learn to contact feelings and emotions relevant to the script selected and learn how they relate to our own behaviour.

Stage 2 - Movement: In this phase we will analyse how music and emotion effect movement. In small groups we will select our own emotion / music and see how these elements change when we apply them to the same choreography. For example how do you execute the routine to hip hop being sad, or to Mozart with a raging temper....how do our emotions change the interpretation of material?

Stage 3 – Animals: We will observe animals up close and select an animal to work with. We will analyse their attributes and behaviour as we take on these traits to develop our own animal persona. We will spend time on improvisation techniques as we’re wild’ and find our animal spirit. In this phase I work with the students to learn how to shed inhibitions and develop creativity and expressive freedom. Once we have developed our animal selves and instincts, we will work to strip these back until we find the true essence of character, as our animal returns to human form. Learning how to develop character and story telling through character is an incredible tool for any performer.
Stage 4: Story Telling: By this stage we have developed diverse and amazing characters to work with and we now begin to write stories for our characters as we place them in different scenarios; giving them a place to live and interact. Through this process we examine what part story telling plays in our world. We discuss why we tell stories and why story telling is important in any culture, including story based rituals and ceremonies.

Bush Workshop / Camp: For those students who are willing and able, the program will culminate in a Wild Bush Camp Workshop where we will put these skills into use, and learn about indigenous story telling and observational skills such as Tracking. My colleague Lee Trew will assist and offer an introduction to animal and bush Tracking, including with sensory awareness exercises, tracking games and activities. Tracking is more than following footprints made in the ground – it is the art and science of perception and studying the world around you. We will also learn about ‘inner tracking’, where the focus is on our own movement and thought. This is an essential tool that enables an actor to inhabit different ‘spaces’ and learn to separate self from character. At the end of the program we will have learnt how to invent, develop and analyse character and story. During the Bush Workshop, students will go deeper into the story development process, creating a performance to present upon our return.

The Bush Workshop will run in the first week of the September School Holidays (14-21st September). Additional costs and location will be advised. Judith Chaplin-Fleming.

Lee Trew: is a qualified psychotherapist who teaches wilderness survival skills for therapeutic purposes and acts as a bushcraft consultant for film productions. After training as a psychotherapist, Lee studied indigenous survival skills and spent a year in the bush, finding shelter, water and food in the landscape. Now he brings psychology and bushcraft together for ‘re-wilding’ – helping people of all ages to reawaken their wildness and deepen their connection with the natural world. Recently, Lee was the ‘bushcraft and trapping consultant’ for the recent Australian film The Hunter, starring Willem Dafoe. [http://www.bluegumbushcraft.com.au](http://www.bluegumbushcraft.com.au)