



Education workshop – *Berkoff's Trial*

Steven Berkoff - writer, director and actor - is renowned for his 'Total Theatre', but what does that mean?

Working with professional actors from the cast of Blackeyed Theatre's *The Trial*, this 90 minute participatory workshop uses fun, interactive activities to explore a range of theatrical techniques, concepts and ideas, including:

- Physical Theatre
- Archetype exercises
- Informing Character
- Creating the environment
- Specific threatening environments/attitude
- Use of props (or not)
- Less can be more (and accessibility)
- Chorus/choral effects/affects
- Music and musical effects
- Extremism, Surrealism and Naturalism vs. Extremistic, Surrealistic and Naturalistic

During the workshop your group will:

- Explore different physical and vocal techniques
- Form a chorus using both physical theatre and vocal techniques
- Develop abilities for the creation of environments
- Learn about Berkoff's 'style' of theatre

Workshop schedule

- Warm-up
- Group discussion: 'Berkovian', Total and Physical Theatre - Is there relevance, and what is the difference, if any?
- Questioning Exercises
- The role of the chorus
- Group exercises: Vocal chorus and chorus techniques
- Ensemble working
- Externalising character and ideas
- Creating a chorus and showing 'attitude' through a tableau
- Realising text for performance

A free teachers pack is also provided, containing further information about the techniques explored in the workshop, the play and the company's approach to performing it.

Hands-on, fun and responsive to the needs of participants, this workshop is suitable for GCSE, A-Level and higher education students.



Workshops can be scheduled on the same day as a performance of *The Trial* at the relevant venue, usually at any time between 1pm and 5pm.

The cost of a single workshop is £110.

Blackeyed Theatre

Now in its eighth year, Blackeyed Theatre is a vibrant touring company, bringing exciting, high quality, professional theatre to mid-scale venues throughout England. Previous productions include Valerie Windsor's *Effie's Burning*, Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*, Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills*, Yasmina Reza's *Art*, Bertolt Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, the world premiere of Steven Berkoff's *Oedipus*, and most recently a revival of its highly acclaimed production of *Oh What a Lovely War*.