

“SHADOW BOXING”

A Workshop in *Choreographic Theatre*:

“tempering images and character”

Enrique Pardo and his colleagues are currently putting together the Sixth Biennial *Myth and Theatre* Festival (Villeneuve lez Avignon, August 6 to 17, 1998) which will be dedicated to “*The Enemy*”. Hence the proposal of a “Shadow Boxing” workshop: this is a context in which how one deals with ‘shadows’, with the darker side of things, reveals quality and temper. Without shadows, images remain flat and naive. And, of course, it is in one’s unacknowledged shadows that the enemy is usually lurking.

The workshop will consist mainly of structured improvisations, where the expression of character and *daimonic* exceptionality defies the intense discipline of group patterning - this dynamic is the basis of *choreographic theatre*. Experience of dance or even theatre is not necessary, but the determination to enter fiction, both physically and vocally, is essential.

The workshop will include voice training; participants are asked to bring a working text learnt by heart (some 200 words long - any genre: monologue, prose, poetry, etc). Through this choice one already enters the fictional ring, and the better one knows one's text, the freer one is to make ‘sound moves’. The inclusion of the spoken word, and of voice, affords choreographic theatre its full potential: texts take on paradoxical life, their literal versions face sub-versions, per-versions, etc. The emotion of these encounters is harvested, musicalised and expressed through the voice, and is usually commented through mythological material.

Enrique Pardo directs PANTHEATRE (Paris), with Linda Wise and Liza Mayer; actor and writer, he teaches and directs throughout Europe and the USA. He works in close collaboration with authors and psychotherapists in the field of archetypal psychology, especially with James Hillman and Charles Boer.

“SHADOW BOXING”

“*tempering images and character*”

a workshop and cabaret project

directed by

Enrique Pardo

Choreographic Theatre

Texts / Voices / Physical Theatre

A 15 day project leading to 2 cabaret performance evenings, designed to give participants both a workshop and a performing experience directed by Enrique Pardo.

Workshop sessions will be based on structured improvisations, - the basis of *choreographic theatre* - leading to the creation of cabaret scenes with 3 to 6 actors, and including the possibility of music (live or recorded), some lighting, costumes, props, etc. - each scene lasting from 3 to 10 minutes.

A *cabaret* approach allows radical artistic freedom, and plenty of humour! It stirs metaphorical ‘contra-diction’, and the subversion of established ‘authorities’ (artistically ‘correct’ interpretations of authors). *Shadow Boxing* gives the project an imaginal bent, calling up the hidden and darker side of things, where quality and temperament are revealed. Without shadows, images remain flat and naive.

Cabaret ‘numbers’ will be assembled around individuals and their choice of text, but usually from an angle that offsets, upsets, or even upstages the *protagonist* tendencies of texts, through *antagonist* moves. This allows participants multiple levels of involvement, different roles in different scenes, with and without texts.

The project is designed for performers and directors (theatre, dance, singing), but is open to motivated non-professionals prepared to engage physically with the imagination.

Participants are asked to choose and learn a text (200 words minimum) by heart, in order to be completely free to improvise with and around it. Through this choice one already enters the fictional boxing ring, and the better one knows one's text, the freer one is to make ‘sound moves’. Please try to refrain from Shakespeare, (unless you cannot help it, in which case we will thoroughly enjoy it...); and try to consider contemporary texts (and not necessarily ones written for theatre).... Enrique is prepared to help with choices (contact via the Cambridge Drama Centre.)

December 16, 1997