

STUDIO
MATEJKA

liquid WAY TO ACTION

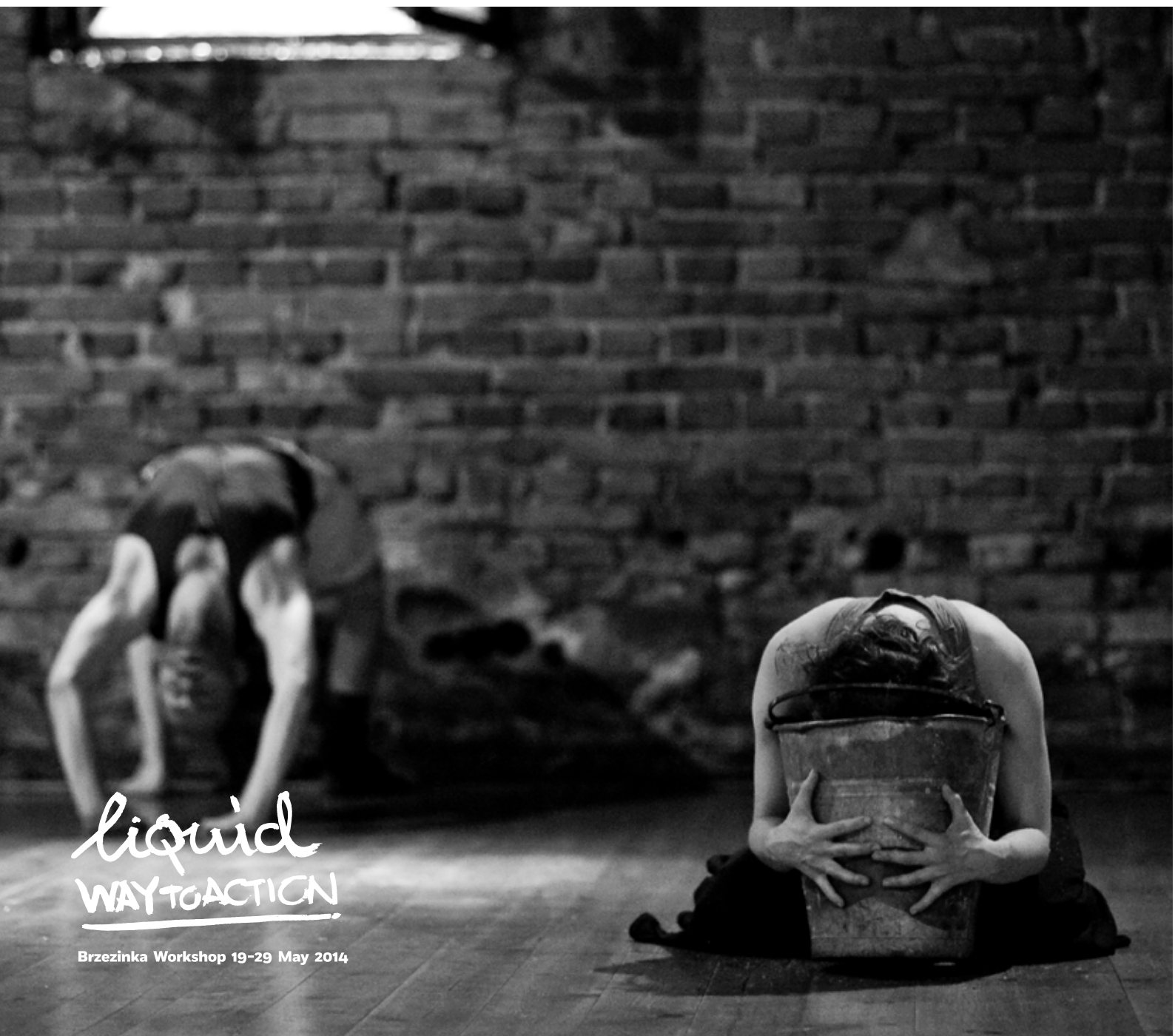
Brzezinka Workshop 19-29 May 2014
11-day intensive summer work session
led by Matej Matejka and Irena Tomazin
together with the members of Studio Matejka.



INSTYTUT
THE GROTOWSKI INSTITUTE IM. JERZEGO
GROTOWSKIEGO

The final action in the performance is often the result of a long transformation of an idea or intuition. It seems there is not one fixed way to reach the action. The path we choose can be stable and yet fluid at the same time. In this work session of The Liquid Way to Action

we search for the fusion of the creative training developed through our extensive research with the performers' individual experiences, in order to uncover a unique and personal form of expression through the body and voice.



liquid
WAY TO ACTION

Brzezinka Workshop 19-29 May 2014



We will use as a starting point the theme of “contradictions” as a source of research for the performer. Contradictions are not a limitation, but rather, by focusing simultaneously on opposite ideas, they open doorways for the inner, primal sources of the body to resonate and flow through voice and movement. The world exists as a dynamic fusion of contradictions in which the performer is able to discover a path to his total essence. By tracing the movement of the body through this labyrinth of oppositions, we come to a deeper understanding of our individual physical and vocal identities, the different voices that mirror our own fragility and strength.

Through a laboratory model that seeks to break the borders between dance, theatre, movement and voice, we aim to unlock the potentialities for beginnings, where action is born. This is an invitation to delve into the rigorous and experimental workspace that defines Studio Matejka.

This year we are inviting a special guest leader, Irena Tomazin, from Slovenia. Irena will introduce elements from her practice and rich experience in movement, drama and voice.

This work session is targeted towards.... practitioners with an interest and experience in theatre, dance or physical performance. It is open both for professional actors and dancers willing to explore less common fields of physical expression. This challenge requires serious focus and precision from all engaged in the work.

Participants will be introduced to ELEMENTS of:

- ⊙ respectful and focused working environment
- ⊙ building of a personal, daily physical practice for the body and voice
- ⊙ sensitivity and listening through partner and group relation
- ⊙ awakening the anatomy of the body to develop readiness for action
- ⊙ physical approach to voice through resonators, breath, stamina, and deep relaxation
- ⊙ acoustical explorations through sound, songs, rhythms and text
- ⊙ transformation from physical/vocal training into creative improvisation
- ⊙ composition of physical and musical structures

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WAY TO ACTION

Brzezinka Workshop 19-29 May 2014



Matej Matejka

Leader and founder of Studio Matejka.

Studied acting at the State Conservatory in Bratislava, Slovakia, later at JAMU University, Brno, Czech Republic. In 2001–2006, actor of Theatre studio Farm in the Cave, Prague and co-creator of performances Dark Love Sonnets and SCLAVI / The Song of an Emigrant – multiawarded performance i.e. Total Theater, Fringe First and Herald Angel Award in 2006 Fringe Festival. Since 2005, collaborator of The Grotowski Institute, where he is engaged in research of physical expression in the theatre.

Actor in Teatr ZAR theatre company and co-creator of Anelli: The Calling and Caesarean Section: Essays on Suicide – winner of the Total Theatre Award and Fringe First Award in 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Since 2010 Founder and leader of Studio Matejka. Directed short films: Life While You Wait, Twenty Second Street, Juste comme ça, The Desire, The Mess, Conflicts of Apathy and “Pearadise” film awarded for Best Foreign Film by Los Angeles International Underground Film Festival.

Director of performances: Awkward Happiness or Everything I Don't Remember About Meeting You; Echoes of the walls underground are louder than the footsteps above me; Woman Decomposed; Charmolypi. He lead workshops in Theatres and Universities all around the globe (UNEARTE, Venezuela; CalArts, California, USA; NSD, New Delhi, India; DS'Delos' of Dimitra Hatoupi, Athens, Greece; University of Salford, UK; Double Edge Theatre, USA; Charles Working Theatre, Boston, USA; Au Brana, France; Lebanon etc.) In his work he searches for the performer's “essence of communication” where both dance and drama are equal vehicles for the actor's expression.

liquid
WAY TO ACTION

Brzezinka Workshop 19–29 May 2014



Irena Tomažin

Irena was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She graduated at the University of Ljubljana – Department of Philosophy. She was actively involved in the art of dance and theater since secondary school when she was a member of the theater group IHT. Further dance-theatre and voice education she gathered in programs such as EN-KNAP Laboratory; the educational program Agon of EMANAT; the Performing Arts seminars of Maska Ljubljana, as well as in many workshops and seminars in Slovenia and abroad. In 2004 she received the danceWEB Scholarship for Contemporary Dance (ImPulzTanz Festival Vienna, AT) and was selected in 2007 in Atelier program at the Grotowski Institute (Wrocław, PL).

In 2001 she made her dance debut Hitchcock's Metamorphoses together with conductor Mitja Reichenberg and in 2005 her second solo Caprice, which focused on the voice. After this solo she started to work more intensively on the voice. In 2006 she made a re-work of Caprice for City of Women Festival (Ljubljana, SI), entitled Caprice (re)lapsed. For both pieces she was bestowed with the Liberal Academy's Golden Bird Award. Soon after followed the projects As a Rain Drop into the Mouth of Silence (2008), for which she received an award at the Gibanica Festival in 2009, and Out of Discord in collaboration with Josephine Evrard. In 2012 she produced her fourth solo The Taste of Silence Always Resonates. Mathieu Copeland invited her in 2011 to work with him on the project Une exposition à être lue in Geneva (HEAD), where she collaborated on curating the exhibition, holding lessons for partners and working on project's book, in which her composition for voice and body were published. In 2013 they continued to collaborate on the project Chorégrapheur l'exposition, (Ferme du Buisson, Paris), where she again contributed her composition and the text Voice's Empty Spaces.

Since 2006 she runs her solo project for voice and dictaphones iT, with which she holds guest appearances in Slovenia and abroad. In 2011 she produced an album Crying Games, produced by Atol Institute, together with Aldo Ivančič with whom she worked in BAST collective and on album Retinal Circus. In the framework of international project Co-voicings (2013-14) they will publish an album The Taste of Silence, with music from her performance The Taste of Silence Always Resonates. Irena Tomažin holds regular voice workshops in Ljubljana and abroad.

liquid
WAY TO ACTION

Brzezinka Workshop 19-29 May 2014



Magdalena Koza

Magdalena Koza (PL) was born in Poland. From 2003–2005, she collaborated with the Experimental Studio of Dance in Cracow, Poland with whom she created several performances based on contemporary dance technique. She then joined the Cracow Dance Theater and over four years she co-created and performed in various dance theatre productions. In 2008, she represented Poland in the XIII Biannual of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean in Bari, Italy. In 2009, she co-created the performance 'Podobno' in the Capitol Dance Stage in Wroclaw, Poland. Since 2010, she has been a member of Studio Matejka in residency with the Grotowski Institute in Wroclaw. With Studio, she developed the performance 'Awkward Happiness or Everything I Don't Remember About Meeting You' in collaboration with Vivien Wood (DV8). Magda has taught and performed internationally in the USA, UK, Poland, Germany, India, Turkey, Italy, Slovakia and Czech Republic. Her main interest is in body awareness practices in physical theatre and dance, drawing from her experience with contemporary dance, Body-Mind Centering and improvisation. She holds a diploma from ballet school and a Master's degree from the Academy of Physical Education in Cracow, and is a certified pedagogue of contemporary dance.



Alexandra Kazazou

Alexandra Kazazou (Greece/Poland) was born in Wrocław, Poland and studied acting in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She worked as an actor in the North National Theater and co-founded Asypka, a theatrical group based in Athens. She first encountered physical theatre with Song of the Goat Theatre during her studies and, in 2009, she went to Wrocław to enter the MA in Acting course with Song of the Goat Theatre in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University. Currently, a member of Studio Matejka in The Jerzy Grotowski Institute, with whom she created and performs in the solo performance 'Charmolypi,' which has toured in numerous venues and festivals through Poland, Greece, Belgium and Russia. Alexandra is a member of the Odra Ensemble in collaboration with Song of the Goat Theatre and member of Jubilo Project in Wrocław. Her main interest of research is focused on the function of chorus in Greek tragedy and the connection with the daily chorus of life and ensemble. A significant inspiration and life experience was her expedition to the Guantanamo Bay base in Cuba. She is a certified teacher of Ashtanga Yoga and also teaches Ancient Greek tragedy at the University of Wrocław (ISKIO), Mediterranean Studies department. Alexandra is currently directing Anna Krotoska (Song of the Goat Theatre) in the solo performance 'L'inattendu,' premiering in early 2014.

liquid
WAY TO ACTION

Brzezinka Workshop 19-29 May 2014



Conditions for work

- ⌚ comfortable training clothing for dynamic movement and strenuous work (spare shirts recommended)
- ⌚ participants should be present in the space 20 minutes before a session begins for individual warm-up and stretching
- ⌚ only water and notebook/pens will be allowed in the space in order to keep a clean and hygienic working atmosphere
- ⌚ refrain from speaking and discussing inside of the workspace, discussions should be kept outside of the workspace in order to protect the energy for the work

Location

The work session will take place in Brzezinka in the historical forest base of The Grotowski Institute, located 46 km from Wrocław. The Brzezinka forest base began as a renovation project by Jerzy Grotowski and The Laboratory Theatre in 1971. The renovated farm buildings surrounded by 10 hectares of forest, now contain a theatrical space, studio spaces, and full living accommodations.

Fee

The session fee of 500 EUR includes accommodation in the Brzezinka forest base, organized transport between Wrocław and Brzezinka, and meals for the entire period of the work session (11 days).

Creative Preparation

The theme for the creative development of the workshop will be 'contradictory elements of the society we live in.' As a point of reference for materials and individual preparations, the focus will revolve around the question 'What kinds of tensions and misunderstandings are often appearing in daily life around you?'

Chosen participants will be asked to bring:

- ⌚ three images inspired from the theme (printed hard copies)
- ⌚ a text inspired from the theme (written by other author or participant, with printed copies and translations into English, if in foreign language)
- ⌚ if you have any competency with a musical instrument, please bring it to the session

Language

Workshop will be led in English. The practice is based on the platform of listening and communication through the body and intuitive experience, therefore verbal explanation will be kept to a minimum.

Please send your completed application form and CV, along with brief letter of motivation to studiomatejka.workshops@gmail.com by 26th April 2014. The workshop will be restricted to a limited number of participants.

<http://www.studiomatejka.com>

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