

LEATSS 2020 Online – Detail of Courses

Here are the details of the nine online courses LEATSS will be offering during summer school week, from **25th July to 2nd August**. This information is published on our website (www.leadss.lu), together with the biographies of the tutors.

A version of the **timetable** enabling a choice of courses to be made without overlap can be found below the Course Details, together with a list of **costs** for participants. **Applications** can be made online from 18th June. (www.leadss.lu/Applications/Applications.php).

Each session will last 90 minutes, with adequate breaks in between to avoid 'screen fatigue'.

COURSE DETAILS

Tutor: **Freddie Machin**

A WRITING RETREAT (writing)

A reflection on writing for today, taking inspiration from the present times

This course will offer participants the opportunity to reflect on the world we live now in through their writing. When we come together each day, I will set provocations, and introduce skills and then send the group off to see what they can write in their own time. We will then share and reflect on what has been written. It will give each person the time to reflect on this fast-moving world crisis through their writing. The course will run the entire length of summer school 2020 but with only one teaching session per day so as to allow plenty of time for each participant to reflect and write.

13,5 hours over the whole period (**weekends, weekday evenings**), 1 session per day plus individual writing work at home

5 to 15 plus participants

Tutor: **Graeme Du Fresne**

THE KARAOKE CHORALE (unison and part singing)

Being creative, exploring singing technique and having fun

The word Karaoke has been almost exclusively linked with singing pop songs in a pub or bar. Karaoke's popularity is generally based on its sociability with the added plus of alcohol being a forgiving factor if some of the notes aren't quite right. The word karaoke is derived from the Japanese words Karappo which means 'empty' and Okesutura meaning 'Orchestra'. We more simply understand it as music that has the lead vocal melody line omitted.

I have a catalogue of Karaoke songs across a range of styles and genres. The tracks consist of orchestra, band & some piano arrangements that sound much like the original. All you have to do is fill in the missing vocals.

There will be unison and part singing; a virtual, karaoke choir

TECHNOLOGY: This can be a daunting aspect if you've had little or no experience of software and gadgets in general. I will be running training workshops in the run up to summer school where we will go through all the devices and procedures required to get us all listening and seeing each other as clearly as possible. I have created a 'Zoom for Singing' help document which is on the website.

The aim is to have fun, be creative and improve our singing technique. Singing across the internet has problems we can't solve but I like to accentuate the positives. With a little patience and a lot of passion we will make our on-line singing course an interesting, imaginative and satisfying few days in everyone's lives.

Both courses will contain a mixture of musical styles & difficulty of the music will range from gently intermediate to slightly more difficult but all with fabulous melodies and interesting lyrics. Most of the work will also involve 'acting through song'. The songs will be drawn from Classical, Folk, Standards & Pop including *A Million Dreams* from 'The Greatest Showman', *Bring Me Sunshine* (Morecambe & Wise), the *Little Shop of Horrors Prologue*, Cliff Richard's *Summer Holiday*, songs from 'Dirty Rotten Scandals' and the *Toreador Song* from Carmen.

12 hours, from Monday 27th July to Saturday 1st August, 1 or 2 sessions per day
6 to 12 participants

Tutor: **Graeme Du Fresne**

THE CRAFT AND GRAFT OF SONGWRITING (songwriting for beginners and more)

How to write your own song – and enjoy it

Having introduced song writing at summer school for the last two years, I am offering another course this year. It will be limited to a small numbers of participants. This will allow me to complete everyone's ideas in 'writing up time' between sessions. You don't need musical skill or experience to do this course. We'll do some preparation on 'how to compose a melody' to get us going but from past experience everyone's got a tune in them! You hum it and I'll play it. We'll look at themes, styles and structures with some examination of a few well-known songs.

Two of the hardest words in the language to rhyme are life and love. Of all words!

Stephen Sondheim

If you're horrible to me, I'm going to write a song about it, and you won't like it. That's how I operate.

Taylor Swift

12 hours from Sat 25th to Friday 31st July, 1 or 2 sessions per day
5 to 8 participants

Tutor: **Kate Colgrave Pope**

MONOLOGUE MASH-UP (acting)

How to fully develop a character through exploring the intricacies of a monologue

This course is tailored for anyone wanting to develop their acting technique and craft and for those actors who may be auditioning for drama schools who need a helping hand in taking themselves

towards their chosen monologues. The course will also be of use for anyone interesting in improving their skills in 'presenting' themselves to a public.

Over the week we will be exploring how to mine a text for its gold, build tension and transform character. We will be using the fundamentals of Stanislavsky techniques to structure your monologues and Lee Strasberg's 'sense memory' to strengthen a personal connection to your material. Additionally, we will use exercises that will build your confidence and encourage you to follow your impulses, free your inhibitions and release your imagination so that you can bring exciting and meaningful characters to life.

Preparation: Participants need to choose a monologue base on the above brief – this should not be longer than 2,5 minutes so that we can really explore the speech.

Please feel free to cut larger monologues to that time if you would like.

You need to have read or know the play fairly well and be familiar with the lines of your speech before our first session.

Each group should have each other's text before the session so we can work on the material together for a sense of shared ownership and collaboration.

6 hours per participant in total over **both weekends**, 1 session per day plus individual work at home
9 participants, working in groups of 3 (each group has 1 session per day)
Each participant will have a total of 2 hours that will be focussed on their individual material.

Tutor: **Janice Dunn**

Let's Do the Show Right Here! a 3-part course on musical theatre (acting, singing, performance)
(courses can be taken individually)

1. LIP SYNCH FOR LOLLERS

Exploring the ideas of performance and expression, via lip synch

(Lip synch is when you mime to a song, as closely as possible to the original, like they do on shows such as RuPaul's Drag Race.)

In our course we will explore the possibilities of storytelling, character development, and performance genre via lip synching. It will be a fun, subversive, interesting, practical and accessible course. No previous experience will be needed.

We will be examining musicality, character development, narrative choices, facial masks, etc.

Individuals will choose a song they would like to work with, and we will simply work with it. You may choose to play across gender, or type, or maybe just choose a song you really, really love singing along to. I am also happy for people to try 'impressions' or tributes if they wish.

You can choose a serious song, (story), or a fun one, or one with special meaning to you. If we have time we can work on more than one song each.

No-one will have to perform solo if they do not wish to. We will do some work together, and some as individuals at the same time; and some solo with those who wish. We will also laugh a lot, and maybe cry a little tiny bit. I think it will be surprisingly interesting, and speaks a little to cabaret, musical theatre, and solo performance.

Please feel free to ask questions if there's anything you're sure about.)

7,5 hours over one weekend, 2 or 3 sessions per day

5 to 15 participants

2. **DANCING WITH MYSELF**

Creating and performing a short routine from a musical

An opportunity to create and perform a movement routine all together, in our own individual digital spaces. Lots of fun and invention, and a bit of exercise.

We will explore ways of linking the moves and story together, on zoom, and find out how we can take full advantage of 'the screen', as a framework we are working within.

No previous experience needed, and please don't worry about 'not being good at dance' because we can't see your feet anyway; so it's a great opportunity to come across as Fred or Ginger, or better still, both!

1,5 to 3 hours (1 to 2 sessions depending on number of participants) over one weekend

no limit to number of participants

3. **FRAMING THE MUSICALS**

Looking creatively at speeches and duologues from musicals

A series of workshops examining monologues and duologues from film musicals. I have many suggestions but am totally open to participants coming at me with pieces they would like to work with. You can choose to do a mono or duo, and will work with me, then self work, then come back to me; and we will share the work together, in some forum of our choice. (maybe recorded.)

We will use the screen framework to give shape, and structure, to what we are trying to achieve, thus allowing is to explore the cinematic nature of the work. We will keep the pieces short so we can achieve something.

No experience of actual film/ screen acting is required.

EXAMPLES: Brad and Janet/ Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Billy Flynn/ Chicago.

Anita & Maria/ West Side Story

Fanny Brice/ Funny Girl

Everything from Oklahoma up to A Star is Born; the list is endless. Give it a go.

9 hours from Monday 27th to Friday 31st July, 2 sessions every 2nd day

11 participants, ideally

Tutor: **Janice Dunn**

OUR 'DIGITAL' TOWN - a collaborative monologue (devising, acting)

Devising a collaborative piece based on the story of a family or group of friends

This course involves devising an interweaving story. We will establish a group of characters, either friends or family (or possibly both.) who are separated by outside events, so can only communicate digitally, and therefore are either individuals or pairs, (as indeed we will be.)

We will, in the opening sessions devise story and characters, and decide upon a narrative; then in further sessions we will go about bringing these characters to life, and developing the detail of narrative/ dialogue. Finally, we will link them and hopefully record them.

(This material could well be edited together later, after the summer school.)

It is possible to be involved in this course as a writer/ deviser, or as a performer, or both. Unusually for Summer School, the aim will be to create an overall finished story, that hangs together in performance; however, our journey together to create this is what will really be the gist of the experience.

No experience of writing or devising needed to join this course.

I hope it will be lots of fun, and a fascinating exploration of the creative process itself. It will be guided entirely by the ideas of the participating group, and requires a huge degree of collaborative effort.

15 hours over the whole period, 1 or 2 sessions per day

5 to 15 participants

Tutor: **Mike McCormack**

THE BEST PICTURES (Radio Drama)

Practicalities and unique elements of creating audio drama

Over the space of 5 days, the course will introduce participants to the practicalities and unique elements of the creation of Audio Drama. It will also be of value and interest to those with ambitions to become skilled at creating sound for theatre. Each of the five sessions will comprise a webinar lecture-demo by Mike, examples of sound dramas and opportunities for questions and comments from participants. Following each session, a practical exercise will be suggested, to be undertaken before the next webinar. At the end of the five days, participants will have created a number of short radio dramas.

Participants are encouraged to download 'Audacity', a free digital sound software, in advance of the course.

The course will be of less value to those already skilled with digital sound software.

The sessions will include work on:

- Radio Drama elements: Unique features of the Sound Drama
- Radio Acting and Directing: Particularities of working in the medium and with the microphone
- Sound software and recording: Introduction to Audacity
- Audacity 2: Sound editing
- Audacity 3: Radio post-production. Filters and effects

7,5 hours over **weekday evenings only**, 1 session per day with additional individual work at home

5 to 15 participants

COSTS

The following is the cost per course:

A Writing Retreat	115 €	(13,5 h)
Dancing With Myself	25 €	(3 h)
Framing the Musical	75 €	(9 h)
Karaoke Chorale	100 €	(12 h)
Lip Synch	65 €	(7,5 h)
Monologue Mash-up	50 €	(6 h per participant)
Our Digital Town	130 €	(15 h)
Songwriting	100 €	(12 h)
The Best Picture	65 €	(7,5 h)

Payment is due by 15th July. Access to courses will be blocked until full payment is received.

Although no scholarships are intended (the course prices are very reasonable), this decision could be reviewed under exceptional cases. Those wishing to apply must make a formal application (email to admin @) leatss.lu) setting out why they wish to benefit from a reduced price. We would rather encourage participants to approach their local groups or organisations to seek subsidy for this (quality) online training

TIMETABLE

Please use the timetable below to select your courses. Confirmed participants will each receive their own individualised timetable by email.

Please note that there is some overlapping of courses. The booking procedure will flag up any clashes as overlapping courses cannot both be taken. However, as there will be three separate groups for The Monologue Mash-up, some overlapping is possible. You will be directed to the appropriate group when you apply.

A number of courses will only be held over a weekend (Monologue Mash-up, Lip Synch, Dancing with Myself), and others only over a weekend and/or weekday evenings (A Writing Retreat, The Best Picture). This is to enable those who are not available during normal working hours to participate.

The Opening and Plenary sessions are complimentary sessions to which participants will be invited to attend. The plenaries are for feedback on the courses up to that point and the online summer school as a whole. The other session in red, the Special Session, is an opportunity for all participants and tutors to join together in a creative, entertaining and enjoyable way.

The Warm-ups in the morning will be live and are highly recommended, even if you only have a course in the afternoon or evening. Participants will be able to join by dial-in.

In order to explain the technical requirements and answer any questions relating to Zoom and computer equipment, two Zoom sessions of 30 minutes will be held on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July at 19:30. All paid-up participants will be invited to attend. It is only necessary to attend one of the two sessions.

All times are CET (Luxembourg).

Time Date	09:00 to 09:20	09:30 to 11:00	11:30 to 13:00	14:00 to 15:30	16:00 to 17:30	19:00 to 20:30	20:45 to 21:30
Friday 24 th July						Opening – Meet, Greet	
Saturday 25 th July	Warm-up	Monologue Mash-up G1	Monologue Mash-up G2	Monologue Mash-up G3			
		A Writing Retreat	Songwriting	Lip Synch	Lip Synch	Songwriting	
Sunday 26 th July	Warm-up	Monologue Mash-up G1	Monologue Mash-up G2	Monologue Mash-up G3			Plenary 1
		A Writing Retreat	Songwriting	Lip Synch	Lip Synch	Lip Synch	
Monday 27 th July	Warm-up	Karaoke Chorale	Karaoke Chorale		Songwriting	The Best Pictures	
		Framing the Musical	Framing the Musical	Our 'Digital' Town	Our 'Digital' Town	A Writing Retreat	
Tuesday 28 th July	Warm-up	Karaoke Chorale			Songwriting	The Best Pictures	
			Our 'Digital' Town		Our 'Digital' Town	A Writing Retreat	
Wed 29 th July	Warm-up	Karaoke Chorale			Songwriting	The Best Pictures	
		Framing the Musical	Our 'Digital' Town	Framing the Musical		A Writing Retreat	
Thursday 30 th July	Warm-up	Karaoke Chorale		Karaoke Chorale	Songwriting	The Best Pictures	
			Our 'Digital' Town		Our 'Digital' Town	A Writing Retreat	
Friday 31 st July	Warm-up	Karaoke Chorale			Songwriting	The Best Pictures	Plenary 2
		Framing the Musical		Framing the Musical	Our 'Digital' Town	A Writing Retreat	
Saturday 1 st August	Warm-up	Monologue Mash-up G1	Monologue Mash-up G2	Monologue Mash-up G3	Karaoke Chorale	Special Session	
		A Writing Retreat	Our 'Digital' Town	Dancing with Myself	Dancing with Myself		
Sunday 2 nd August	Warm-up	Monologue Mash-up G1	Monologue Mash-up G2	Monologue Mash-up G3		Final Plenary	
		A Writing Retreat	Our 'Digital' Town				

PRACTICALITIES

Applications: These can be made online from **18th June**. Places will be allocated on a first come – first served basis. Applications will close on 10th July.

Participants will receive an email confirmation together with details of payment.

Waiting lists will be created should demand exceed capacity. **If payment has not been received by the due date (15th July)**, these places will be forfeited and given to the next on the waiting list.

Technical support: Courses will be run on Zoom. In addition to the two short introductions which will be held in the week preceding summer school to ensure everyone is on the same technical page (see Timetable above), a technician will be available at a help desk before, during and after courses.

Participants will find the need to 'breakout' during sessions (or between) in order to work together in pairs or small groups. This can be done using a variety of apps. Participants will be directed to useful ones.

Younger participants: LEATSS is primarily an adult school. However, some of the courses offered by LEATSS OnLine could well be suitable for younger people, especially if they have had some training (youth theatre group, school, etc.) or have a particular interest. If you fall in this category, you will be asked about your interest/experience when you apply.

Virtual Bar: And what sort of summer school would it be without the possibility to meet at the end of the day to chill and chat – and enjoy ourselves? Perhaps a quiz, perhaps an exchange of poems, perhaps some stories, perhaps a few songs... Participants will receive a link to the LOL Bar which will operate from after classes until late.

And please don't hesitate to contact us at admin @ leatss.lu should you have any questions.

Looking greatly forward to seeing you online,

Graeme Du Fresne (Course Director)
and
John Brigg (Administrator)