

## SECOND AGE PRESENT

### Three Tailored Workshops on Playing Shakespeare

With Alan Stanford & Donnacadh O'Briain

Playing Shakespeare The Monologue: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March 10am -6pm

Playing Shakespeare An Introduction: 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March 10am -6pm

Playing Shakespeare The Scene: 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 10am -6pm

#### Who We Are

Second Age Theatre Company exists to promote an awareness and love of Classical Theatre for all but especially in the young. Our aim is to present and tour two or more large scale classic theatre productions a year.

*"like a seasoned repertory company in top form ... the result is hypnotic"* IRISH TIMES

#### The Workshops

Three tailored workshops on playing Shakespeare.

Over two days in the Gate Theatre's beautiful new rehearsal space actors will work with Alan Stanford and Donnacadh O'Briain on the understanding and delivery of verse; participants will develop an understanding of how Shakespeare's verse works and how to unpick the directions inherent in the script.

- **'Playing Shakespeare - the Monologue'** includes an introductory session on playing Shakespeare's verse, prior to an intensive period of working on individual speeches both in group work and in one-on-one, all with Donnacadh O'Briain. Participants will learn how to find clues in the verse structure, the punctuation, consonant and vowel use, as well as how to engage truthfully with complex imagery.
- **'Playing Shakespeare - An Introduction'** is a fast paced, intensive two day demystifying workshop, which will help actors overcome their fear of the verse and provide them with tools to claim the power of Shakespeare's language for themselves. This is aimed at actors coming to Elizabethan verse for the first time.
- **'Playing Shakespeare - the Scene'** includes an introduction to playing verse with Stanford and O'Briain, prior to an intensive period of working on two person scenes both in group work and in one-on-one sessions with Donnacadh O'Briain. The participants will work together to find the underlying rhythms of scenes, and learn to use these rhythms to identify shifts in situation, stakes and inter-character dynamics - helping them to make more bold and exciting choices.

*All three workshops include a final one hour feedback session with both directors.*

#### The Facilitators

**Alan Stanford** is a co founder and Artistic Director of Second Age and has over forty years of professional experience at the highest level. He is a principle director with the Gate Theatre. For Second Age he has directed *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello* & *Macbeth*. His work as an actor includes roles from Shaw to Wilde, and from Ibsen to Ayckbourn. He has performed as Pozzo in *Waiting for Godot* & as Hamm in *Endgame*, performances he repeated to considerable critical acclaim at the Lincoln Center, New York, in Toronto, in Melbourne, the Barbican Theatre, London & on two US tours. His last appearance in Dublin was as Lady Bracknell at the Abbey Theatre.

**Donnacadh O'Briain** has been described by the Irish Independent as "an authority on Shakespeare on stage" and his Shakespeare productions have been described by the Irish Times as 'inspired' and 'as good as it gets'. His work in Ireland and in the UK has included productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Richard III* and most recently Second Age's production of *King Lear*. He has directed a number of new plays and adaptations in London, Dublin and Edinburgh including his recent London production of Leo Butler's *The Early Bird* (Critics Choice - Independent on Sunday), which comes to Dublin this summer. As an assistant director, Donnacadh spent three years

with the Royal Shakespeare Company where he worked on ten productions including the multi award-winning Histories Cycle (The Guardian's 'Production of the Decade'). His teaching includes a year as Warwick University's Artist in Residence and mentors include the RSC's Artistic Director Michael Boyd and world famous Voice Director Cicily Berry.

### **Who Is Eligible?**

The workshops are aimed at actors working in the profession, though recent drama school graduates will be considered.

### **How Can I Apply?**

To apply please email a CV to [info@secondage.com](mailto:info@secondage.com) or send to Second Age Theatre Company, 74 Dame Street, Dublin 2. Specify the workshop you would like to participate in. The deadline for applications is the Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March @5pm. Successful applicants will be informed on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Each workshop will be limited to a maximum of 10 participants. Applicants can apply for all three workshops should they wish to do so.

### **Where Do the Workshops Take Place, What is the Cost?**

Gate Theatre, 1 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1. All two day workshops cost €100 each. Fee payable by cheque to Second Age Theatre Company on acceptance of place.

### **Testimonials from our highly successful Playing Shakespeare Workshop in 2009**

*"I found a lot of the work & exercises to be very valuable, interesting, informative & fun"*

*"I have only positive things to report, very well organized, great people, great fun, learned A LOT!"*

*"I thought it was really well run, excellent tutors - passionate, enthusiastic, very approachable and easy to engage with. The way in which the information was packaged and delivered was easily assimilated. Very reasonably priced & it was loads of fun"*

*"It was a master class in Shakespeare, which was very accessible & very well taught"*

*"It would be excellent to be able to do workshops of this calibre on an ongoing basis"*

*"I would definitely recommend this course to any professional actor"*

*"A great week of learning and 'light bulb' moments, thanks for such valuable practical insights into Shakespeare. More please"*

**For More Information:** Contact Second Age on **t.01 6798542** or visit **[www.secondage.com](http://www.secondage.com)**