



ACTING NOW  
THEATRE COMPANY



SEPTEMBER  
2017 - 2018

## ACTING NOW ANNUAL REPORT 2018



September 2017 to September 2018

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## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

**Acting Now's director, Marina Pallarès-Elias was selected to be part of the Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme, in partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs and jointly funded by Big Lottery Fund.**

The partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs sits right at the heart of Lloyds Banking Group's ambition to Help Britain Prosper. It is one of its flagship programmes designed to support social entrepreneurs in communities and, through them, help stimulate economic growth and regeneration across the UK.

Launched in April 2012, the Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme is run in partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs, and jointly funded by Big Lottery Fund. The programme provides both financial support

(grants of up to £10,000) and access to a comprehensive learning support programme including a business mentoring scheme. By 2020 the programme will have supported around 2,350 social entrepreneurs to start and grow innovative social organisations.

From September, Marina has been attending to the School of Social Entrepreneurs in London, where she has received intensive and exhaustive training in different areas such as accountancy, project managing and people managing.

### PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneurs Programme



## ROLEPLAYS

**During this year we have supplied with roleplay actors for the Social Work department at Anglia University at twelve different occasions for training or assessment sessions.**

We have developed a strong relationship with Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge (UK) to help assess the interview skills of their students in Social Work.

During the year our trained actors worked along with the social work students to help them develop their face to face skills, and practice real life situations that can take place during interviews.

“I wanted to pass on our congratulations to the young actor who played an Irish homeless in our assessment. I was very impressed by his acting, he’s good! Hope he’ll work with our ARDP program again.”  
Dr Roxana Anghel, senior researcher and senior lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University.



<p><b>ROLE PLAY FOR ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>To support training transfer to the workplace. Practice and improvement of key professional competencies</p>	 <p><b>ROLE PLAY FOR TRAINING</b></p> <p>To facilitate the evaluation of your students, trainees or potential employees and their readiness for work</p>
 <p><b>FORUM THEATRE TRAINING</b></p> <p>To explore in depth challenging situations in the workplace in a participative manner</p>	
<p><b>BESPOKE TRAINING</b></p> <p>To help your staff and organisation achieve specific objectives creatively</p>	<p><b>Improving training through creativity</b></p>

## THE CAMBRIDGE CHILDREN'S CHARITY WEEK ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT

**Acting Now's work with children and young people has been rewarded again at this annual event.**

For the second time, Acting Now's work supporting children was rewarded by The Cambridge Children's Charity Week Annual Awards Event. This fantastic event brings together many different communities (from business, education, faith, sport, local authority etc.) of Cambridge in one room to celebrate and reward the fantastic work of local charities and voluntary groups that support children and young people that face disadvantage and live in Cambridge City.

This year Acting Now's Rose Clark represented the team to receive the award and give a brief speech about our projects working with vulnerable children in Cambridge. In Rose's words, *it was a fabulous event as it wasn't only an awards presentation, but it was also an excellent opportunity to hear about other inspirational projects and provided with useful information for organisations about how to use community volunteering time.*





## ITALIAN GROUP TRAINING WITH US

**Acting Now hosted a Theatre of the Oppressed training for five theatre practitioners coming from Italy.**



In February we hosted a group of theatre professionals from Zoe Teatri and Magnifico Teatrino Errante, both companies based in Bologna, Italy. Funded by the Erasmus + Programme, they received training in Theatre of the Oppressed by Marina Pallarès-Elias, director of the company, who was assisted by Lisa Burkard, Acting Now's intern.

During one week participants were equipped with solid knowledge of the Forum Theatre technique and participatory theatre practices. We also had the chance

to explore means of devising dramatic content and narratives and to learn tips about facilitating creative programs with educational purposes.

The group worked intensively and passionately and they gave us very positive feedback. As one of the participants stated:

*"We are strong...we are beautiful...we are humans...we are different...Each one of us has the possibility to grow up with the others! Thanks to Acting Now and Marina!! See u soon...we hope!!"*

## MAKING CHANGES: MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES GROUP

**Making Changes is a theatre group that ran through all the year bringing together adults with and without mental health challenges, to explore the subject and seek to dispel the taboos still associated with it. Together, we developed two different productions this year.**

### 20 QUESTIONS



Making Changes participants took part of 20 Questions, a collaborative dance performance produced by UNIT and they performed at The Junction in October 2017.

20 Questions was a fusion of dance, candid interviews and seamlessly integrated film, 20 Questions featured a 40 strong intergenerational cast of local people, some of whom have danced all their lives, others who have never danced before.

Every performer in the show had been on a 10 hour journey with the company; learning who they are, who they were and who they might like to be; finding the answers to those big questions through movement. 20 Question was a snapshot of life and a gloriously uplifting look at humanity.

## I DESERVE A BETTER CHANCE

In April the group presented *I Deserve a Better Chance*, an original play to reflect, explore and analyse the issues that affect them, for which director Marina Pallarès-Elias worked with the group to develop a collaborative script inspired by their own stories. The play performed twice at CB2 Café basement in Cambridge and tickets sold out on both nights.

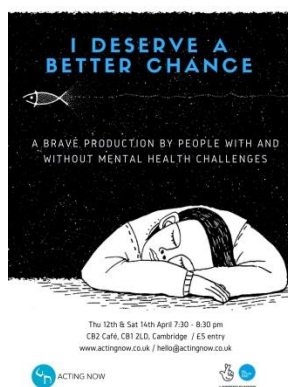
The play pictures a mosaic of personal experiences where actors take us to a past moment of their lives when everything changed drastically. All stories are based in participants' true facts and have gone through a process of collective imagination and creation. With great honesty and courage, participants shared their

reflections about their own challenges and existence while they claimed a better chance, all seen through the powerful lens of Physical Theatre language. The Q&A was an opportunity for the audience to express how powerful and moving the performance was:

*"This was really powerful and intensive; it hit me more than any previous show. Shivers, energy, tears, really great!"*

*"Exciting, entertaining - Real Life! You can go anywhere in this art form - congratulations!"*

*"Authentic and touching! I loved the group spirit, the dedication and the passion!"*





## ROWAN: LEARNING DISABILITIES

**We have continued working with Cambridge Organisation Rowan, delivering two theatre groups and releasing the theatre production Through the Cloud I Can See You.**

Since November 2015, we have been developing a thrilling collaboration with Cambridge based arts centre and charity, Rowan, running a range of drama groups for their service users. This year we continued working in partnership with them, running 2 weekly groups, and setting an amazing devised play using stories created by the participants.

We aim to help people with learning disabilities to discover their talents, learn new skills and gain confidence. By using physical theatre, participants become aware of the capacity of their bodies, which can open up new forms of expression.

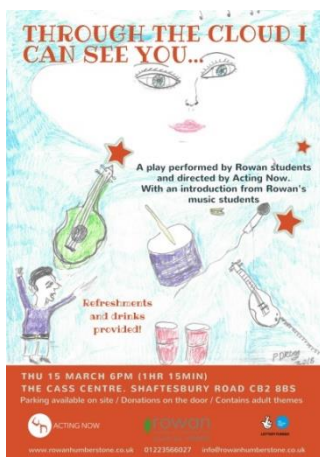
This year we created the play Through The Cloud I Can See You. The performance was

powerful and magnetic, and challenged the prejudices of some members of the audience, whose feedback revealed how impressed they were with the quality of the acting and the overall show. The play took place at The Cass Centre, Cambridge University Press, where we sold all tickets, spent a magic night and the talent and enthusiasm of Rowan students captivated the audience. People gave some amazing feedback:

*Emotional, engaging, surprising.*

*Funny, moving, evocative, thought provocation.*

*Life-affirmation to experience the professionalism that enabled Rowan students to perform in front of a large audience.*



## YMCA: YOUNG REFUGEE GROUP

**A group of young refugees from YMCA devised and performed a powerful play based on their own experiences.**

In September 2017 we started a new project in partnership with YMCA, thanks to the support of Cambridge City Council. The group, led by Marina Pallarès-Elias, worked together for 3 months using Physical Theatre techniques, drama games and exercises to empower a group of young refugees from different countries.

Participants themselves took the ownership of the process of creating their very own theatre pieces as well as they took the lead in the discussion of the whole experience. The theatre techniques employed helped participants identify those issues they wanted to explore more deeply.

The group devised a provocative theatre play based on the participants' experiences and stories: Love Is underground, a powerful play, showing different life struggles, challenges and joy. This piece takes on a journey through war torn countries, feeling trapped, travelling, songs, hope, love and reaching our dreams.

They presented the final performance at Acting now's Christmas gathering and the Acting Now team, students, members from the different community theatre groups and other guests enjoyed the performance thoroughly. The young people who were part of the group felt really proud of their achievement and wish to continue doing further projects together. In February 2018 the play was showed again at YMCA for staff and residents and the feedback was again really positive.



## KITE TRUST: LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE

**In partnership with The Kite Trust, the leading LGBT+ organisation in Cambridge, we presented two magnetic productions devised by young LGBT+ people.**

Thanks to our partnership with The Kite Trust, we have been working since September 2017 in a 18 months project, "QUACY: Queer Arts Cambridge Youth". We provided weekly groups for young LGBT+ people to come together and engage in a program of positive theatre based activities that will help to reduce isolation, improve confidence and self-esteem and improve knowledge and awareness of issues affecting them. By participating in this project, we helped the

young people to devise their own community performances.

Using theatre helped us to establish connections between the young people and to express their worries in a creative way. Working from their own material through the year, we put up two theatre productions (February and July 2018) that helped them to engage with the community and to raise self-confidence and pride in the participants.

### WHAT YOU DON'T SEE

"What you don't see" was a devised theatre play made from the young people's own stories, dreams, fears and desires. It was a powerful and unique performance combining physical theatre language, poetry, music and dance. The young people discovered how they can express themselves through their bodies and how theatre can help them raise their voices.

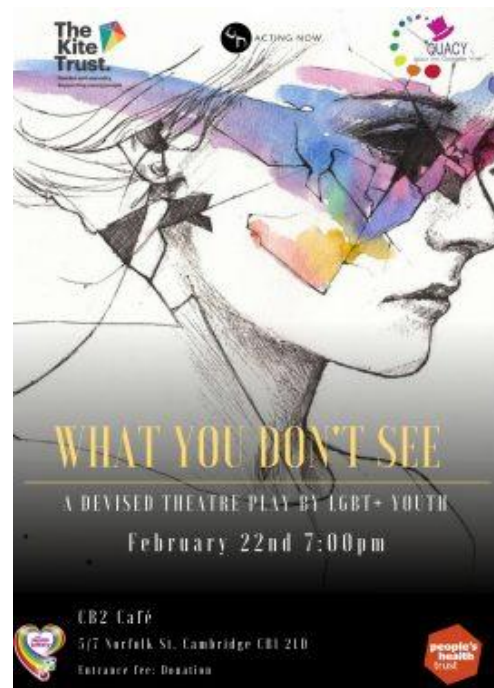
The QUACY young people shared with the audience this provocative journey where feelings, thoughts and hopes are presented.

The play performed at the Kite Trust's 25th anniversary event and at CB2 Café and in both nights members of the audience were really touched by the performance:

*Amazing to see the youngsters creativity, allowing a space to openly discuss and explore issues affecting them.*

*Amazing and very powerful. With an important message performed straight from the heart.*

*I was incredibly impressed by what I saw tonight - For the creativity expressed and the openness of the stories shared. These young people have made the absolute most of this opportunity; great thing!*





## THIS IS ME

This Is Me presented a funny, tender exploration of what it means to be young and queer in Cambridge today. The play detailed the experience of coming out and the magic of celebrating difference.

This Is Me, directed by Actin Now theatre practitioners Marina Pallarès-Elias and Rose Clark explored what it's like to come out in several different ways and imagined a world where we control the narration of our own stories. The play was devised over several months in busy, enjoyable weekly sessions. In each session the group focused on how difference can be expressed and celebrated in our community through dramatizing individual experiences. The play was performed twice in July at Acting Now premises and tickets sold out both

nights. During the Q&A audience was very emotionally touched and enthusiastic and the feedback from the performance proved us that the young people's message had really come across to them:

*"I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the play and the style of the actors. The rainbow flag was amazing!"*

*"Moving, uplifting and just a little saddening that I never had this kind of opportunity growing up"*

*"It was very inspiring. Marina gives this platform to the kids to understand themselves and help the audience understand their stories and even their own past experiences. Very relatable. I wished that more people had seen it!"*





## DRAMA UNLIMITED: MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES NEW GROUP

**Thanks to the support from the A14 Community Fund we have started a new applied theatre group for people with mental health issues.**

In February 2018 we started a new drama project funded by the A14 Community Fund (managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation) aimed at people experiencing mental health challenges in Cambridge.

Drama Unlimited brings together 12 adults with mental health challenges, to explore the subject and seek to dispel the taboos still associated with it. Another group's aim is to create a theatre piece about life around the A14 and perform it in front of communities around the A14, so it can contribute to the sense of community among the people living along that road.

The play is being devised using participant's own stories and also those from people outside the group. To gather these stories participants put a research into practice, in which they interviewed twenty people about their life experiences and memories about being on the road.

With a selection of stories from the interviews and those collected during the group sessions, we created a collage of stories that served us as raw material and inspiration for the creation of "Side Roads".



The project will run until the end of the year and will culminate with four public performances of “Side Rodads”, planned for:

20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November at Judith E Wilson, University of Cambridge

1<sup>st</sup> December at Medway Community Centre, Hundtindon

8<sup>th</sup> December at Burleigh Hill Community Centre, St. Ives

Video of the upcoming play:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIFxt\\_nNAXrE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIFxt_nNAXrE)

Short version of interviews held by participants of the project:

<https://youtu.be/Nf0RmzsP7n0>





## THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED WORKSHOP TRAINING

**In February we delivered a Theatre of the Oppressed training that was attended by 14 participants from all backgrounds.**

It was an eight hours workshop in which participants were equipped with solid knowledge of the Forum Theatre technique and participatory theatre practices. We also had the chance to explore means of devising dramatic content and narratives and learn tips in facilitating creative programs for education purposes.

The workshop was attended by 14 participants from different backgrounds who engaged beautifully with the theatre exercises and participated actively in the processes of creation and reflection.

In their own words:

*"Seeing how, after some simple steps, a topic can become a forum theatre piece was fascinating; the freedom of expression created was a valuable aspect; an event that merged cultures and backgrounds effortlessly"*

*"It opens your heart to other people; new perspective how theatre can influence social change; I felt welcomed and engaged throughout"*

Filmmaker Cameron Brown produced a video with footage and interviews from the workshop:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG3LpO2\\_t58&t=11s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG3LpO2_t58&t=11s)



## CHANGEMAKERS: THEATRE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

This year we worked with four different schools in Cambridgeshire delivering our programme of workshops for young people.



Aimed at schools, Changemakers is a program of performance and theatrical workshops intended to help students make more informed choices. By using drama and Forum Theatre techniques, we offer fun and effective tools that encouraged young people to explore day-to-day issues, tackle social preconceptions, develop new ideas and foster positive change.

The aim of these sessions is encourage students to articulate their own experiences, go beyond their limits and understand life from different perspectives around the following topics:

- Bullying and Cyber-bullying,
- Internet Safety and Social Networks

- Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol
- Sexual Health and Teenage Pregnancy
- Young refugees

During the year we have worked with the following schools: Elly College; Cromwell Community College; Hinchinbrook School, and St Matthew's Catholic Primary School.

As part of the workshop, students created emotional pieces about the specific topics and had a chance to look at different perspectives of the issues that affect them closely. They also reflected about causes, consequences and possible solutions to the problems that were raised.



## CONFERENCES

During this year Acting Now has participated in different conferences in the UK and Spain.

### CAN CONFERENCE



Every year around the month of March CAN Conference brings together arts and cultural organisations and practitioners based in and around Cambridge to offer a space for networking, learning, sharing and reflecting about important issues around Cambridgeshire cultural life.

**In this year's edition of the conference, held in March 2018, Marina participated as a speaker along with Neil Prem, Head of Enterprise Engagement at Allia Future Business Centre.** During their talk, Marina and Neil explored ways in which creative individuals can benefit from the start-up

support available in Cambridge, in order to move from idea to action and to develop an established arts organisation. As an example, the speakers introduced the case of Acting Now and how it has benefited from mentoring support, working space and training from Allia Future Business Centre.

The session aimed to illustrate the company's trajectory, focusing on the challenges experienced in the first few years of existence and the benefits of being part of a start-up hub and hopes to provide inspiration for others to start their own organisations.

## WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

**On 20th March Acting Now's Marina Pallares took part in the World Social Work Day conference organized by Anglia Ruskin University Employability Service and Anglia Ruskin University Student Services.**

The event was a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge in this interdisciplinary, inter-professional holistic approach to 'promoting community and environmental sustainability'.

Students attending the event had the opportunity to participate in the workshop "Applied Theatre as a Tool for Learning and Community Development". The workshop introduced Social Work students to some theatre techniques that can be used when working with groups at risk of social exclusion. Participants engaged actively despite the fact of not having any theatre background, which proves that physical theatre combined with applied theatre can be a powerful and effective tool for everyone.



## PERFORMING ARTS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION CONFERENCE



**Acting Now director Marina Pallarès-Elias participated as a speaker in the Conference "Social Inclusion and Education in Performing Arts" which took place in Madrid from 9th to 11th May 2018.**

In its 10th edition, the conference focused on the challenge of reaching a more equal society through the arts and offered presentations from prestigious speakers such as Jenny Sealey from Grease theatre company, Scott Rankin from BIG hART and François Matarasso.

Marina's presentation, entitled "Physical Theatre and Theatre of Yes. The Greek Chorus as emotional facilitator" addressed her methodology and how she uses theatre language with vulnerable people as a tool for empowerment and the re-creation of personal stories.

The conference was a great opportunity for International networking and for sharing Marina's very own methodology for the first time. During the last ten years working with communities around the world she has developed what she calls "Raw Theatre, Theatre of Yes" a unique theatre tool combining Applied Theatre and Physical Theatre to address and create pieces around participants' issues.

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

### UNIVERSITY OF LILLE, FRANCE



From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April Marina was commissioned to teach a short course on Physical Theatre (introduction to Lecoq's pedagogy) to arts students at a master level at the University of Lille Nord-de-France.

In the course "The Greek Chorus as a tool of exploring raw emotions" Marina and the participants examine the endless creative possibilities of the Greek Chorus when it comes to express with the body the emotions that are difficult to put into words, which is the power of Physical Theatre. Participants and organizers of the course were very satisfied with the training and for so Marina will be returning to Lille next year, as it is shown in the feedback from Marie-Pierre Lassus, Head of the Master of Arts, Université of Lille:

*"The course was very inspiring, creative and poetic experience. Her work is excellent and I look forward to programming more of her training programmes next course"*

### CASA ENCENDIDA, MADRID, SPAIN.



In April and for the fourth consecutive year, Acting Now's director Marina Pallarès-Elias was commissioned to teach a four-day training at La Casa Encendida, one of the most relevant social and cultural centres in Madrid.

La Casa Encendida offers a dynamic and open space for artistic expressions, activities related to Culture, Solidarity,

Environment and Education. In this context, Marina' was accepted to teach the workshop "Social Transformation through Theatre", which sold out within the first hour from going online.

During one week, the group analysed and investigated the processes of empowerment of people and communities, through a representative theatre that seeks equality.

*"All the participants found the Theatre of the Oppressed workshop absolutely fantastic, so we will programme your workshops next year. Marina has a big fan club in Madrid!". Ángeles Tebar Medina, Education Manager at La Casa Encendida.*



## MATADERO, MADRID, SPAIN

**In April Marina was commissioned to deliver a two-day workshop at Matadero de Madrid, an organisation reference in the city when it comes to cultural programming.**

During the workshop Marina used different Theatre of the Oppressed games and techniques where participants were challenged to work together, reflect, and follow their instincts.

Travelling from the emotions to the ideas they discovered new corners of themselves and them as a group, contributing to an inspirational and creative space for change.

Participants enjoyed the training very much, as per the feedback we received after the sessions:

*"I told you... when Marina is present, the magic comes up and she passes it on to the rest of the group".*

*"I was a bit shy at the beginning but I went through it by working as a group. It was great fun and I learned a lot".*

*"I have learnt the importance of exposing myself in front of others with confidence, as this is a way to confront my fear towards others people opinions about me"*



## POLYPHONY: DRAMA GROUP ABOUT LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY

**Acting Now is devising a play in partnership with Cambridge University and is to be performed at Cambridge Festival of Ideas 2018**



Polyphony is a theatre project led by Acting Now and Polygon Arts, in association with the MEITS Research project, and their aim is to create an original, devised theatre performance about language and identity.


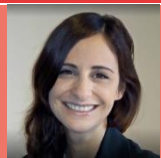


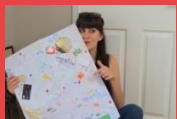




MEITS has commissioned this community theatre production to bring stories of everyday multilingual lives to a wider audience. Through workshop and rehearsal, they are devising an intimate and interactive portrayal of the many identities the participants perform at

home, at work, with friends and with family. We want to create a story of fitting in and falling out, speaking up and not being heard, finding one voice and losing another.

Polyphony will be performed at Cambridge Festival of Ideas 2018 on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at 2pm and 8pm at the Auditorium at Homerton College in Cambridge.

## NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

At Acting Now we have been lucky to welcome some new members to the team:

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS		
Liv Kaya		International work experience as Drama Assistant from September to December 2017.
Cecilia Della Mora		Marketing assistant volunteer from September 2017 to January 2018.
Lisa Burkard		International work experience (Erasmus +) from February 2018 to October 2018.
Johana		Drama assistant at Rowan groups (learning disabilities) (Internship as part of her Drama Studies at Anglia Ruskin University).
Simon Sterrew		Volunteer Drama Assistant at Friday's Rowan group (Learning disabilities).
THEATRE PRACTICIONERS		
Rose Clark		Group leader at Friday's Rowan group (Learning disabilities) and at the Physical Theatre for Kids workshops since September 2017.
Judita Vivas		Artistic Director at Drama Unlimited group since February 2018.
Babette Lind		Group leader and artistic director of upcoming groups to work with young women and mix race people.
Emiliano Troiano		Drama Assistant at Polyphony Project.
OTHER		
Sasha Novakovic		Videographer and photographer, he is working with us at different Projects creating corporate videos as well as covering events.

## ACTING COURSES

During the year we ran three different acting courses for adults and one for kids.

### PHYSICAL THEATRE COURSES FOR ADULTS



We ran two courses aimed for beginners from October to December 2017 and another one from January to April 2018.

During both training courses we worked with acting games, improvisation,

movement, device theatre, neutral mask, and chorus theatre.

With similar duration, we also ran two courses aimed at actors with some experience of Physical Theatre.

### PHYSICAL THEATRE FOR KIDS

This year we also ran an Acting course aimed at kids aged five to eight years old. It was a 12 session course and started in April 2018.

Our drama workshops for kids are an alternative to conventional drama lessons and are based on body movement, freedom and creativity. Through a range of fun theatre games and physical theatre techniques, we aim to promote emotional and physical awareness, self-confidence and self-expression in the participants while having fun and learning theatre skills.

In our courses we worked/played with:



Rhythmical movement, pace and the energy of the body; Artistic expression (the many ways we can express ourselves); Creating characters and collaborative story creation.



## EMBASSY ENGLISH SCHOOL

**Acting Now has started a new range of workshops aimed to help international students to practice English through theatre.**



**In June 2018 we were commissioned to teach a one-day theatre course for foreign students at Embassy School in Cambridge.**

Our theatre practitioner Rose Clark designed a Physical Theatre training adapted to young people in which the main aim was to promote the learning of English associated to body movements

Drama offers many possibilities for improving language use in an entertaining and meaningful way. Through a range of fun theatre games and activities, we aim to promote emotional and physical awareness in the students. Movement is a

very important element for learning as it enables students to experience the connection between thought and action. For example, simply learning in conjunction with movement and gesture helps to reinforce new vocabulary and has positive retention effects. The focus here isn't on performing for an audience or gaining acting skills. It's on interaction; communication and helping students overcome shyness. Drama exercises help break the ice and often involve students working in pairs and in groups while fostering and maintaining their motivation and attention.

## ANTIGONE: NOW

**Acting Now participated with Antigone: Now at Hotbed Theatre Festival 2018, Cambridge Junction, receiving an amazing feedback.**



Antigone: Now Directed by Marina Pallarès-Elias and performed by: Déa Ràk, Nichola Soyza, Emiliano Miles Troiano and Melina Liddiard

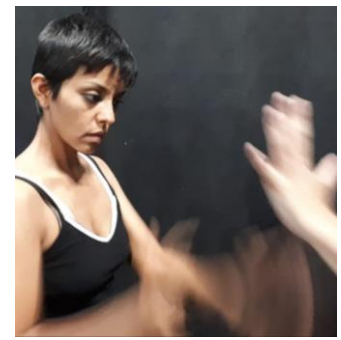
On Friday 6th July 2018 at Hotbed Festival Acting Now participated at Hotbed Theatre Festival with the physical theatre performance Antigone: Now.

The play, directed by Marina Pallarès-Elias is a new adaptation of Antigone, written by Sophocles in 442 B.C. Antigone: Now tells

the tale of a young heroine who goes against society to honour the death of her brother. This new powerfully physical version of the play depicts the empowerment of women and the crucial issues modern societies must grapple with today.

## APPLIED THEATRE PROJECTS IN MEXICO

**Acting Now's Director, Marina Pallarès-Elias spent the summer in Oaxaca, México leading two applied theatre projects, one for women at risk and another one for deaf people.**



Working together with CARPA (The Collective of Arts of Participation), Marina created two provocative and empowering performances, one with indigenous women and another with deaf people.

Using Lecoq and Physical Theatre languages and assisted by Mori Plaschinski, the group explored movement through exercises putting the focus on the participant's personal stories.

The creative process ran from 15 days with each group and the workshops followed the basic principles of Lecoq's pedagogy: play, analysis of movement and improvisation. The plays intention was to be a reflection of real life in order to raise awareness in the audience and generate changes.

Both performances were shown together at different venues at Oaxaca and will continue touring during this year.

This project will also have set the frame for an international network platform, as Marina worked very closely with other theatre practitioners like Carlos Camarillo, Claudia Landavazo, Pio Cinemano or Bruno Varela, who also use theatre to work with minorities like LGBT, BME and indigenous communities.



## ACTING NOW'S NEW VIDEOS

This year we have had the luck to work with Sasha Novakovic, a young and enthusiastic videographer who has produced some corporate videos for Acting Now.

### CORPORATE VIDEOS

Sasha Novakovic joined the team as a filmmaker intern from Anglia Ruskin University in September 2017 to produce a

corporate video plus four small versions of the same to be used in Social Media.:



Acting Now Theatre Company 2018



Acting Now's methodology



Applied Theatre project at Rowan



Theatre as a tool of social transformation



Behind the scenes images from Acting Now

We were so pleased with the result that we have commissioned two more videos:

### DRAMA UNLIMITED PROJECT

As part of the devising process of this applied theatre project, Sasha filmed the interviews to eight people about their life experiences and memories about being on the road, whose stories helped the participants to create the play "Side roads":



Drama Unlimited interviews

Once Side Roads has been performed in December 2018, Sasha will finalise a video about the whole project. With the footage he has taken so far he has also created a small video to promote the play:



Drama Unlimited

### POLYPHONY PROJECT:

Sasha has been commissioned to produce a promotional video about this project and it will be released in late September.



## PRESS CLIPPING

Acting Now was featured in the following sites and magazines during the last year:

Media	Press Content
Arts Professional Magazine	
Arts News listing	
City Acting Blog	
Positive News Magazine	
Arts Professional Magazine	

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**The year 2018-2019 will be an intense period in Acting Now. We will continue with our existing projects and we will be launching new ones.**

### ROWAN: LEARNING DISABILITIES

Our partnership with Rowan continues to grow. We will run four weekly workshops with learning disabled adults, and we will produce four new original devised theatre plays.



### KITE TRUST: LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE

Thanks to our partnership with The Kite Trust we will be working in an 18 months project "QUACY: Queer Arts Cambridge Youth". We will provide weekly groups for young LGBT+ people to come together and engage in a program of positive theatre based activities that will help to reduce isolation, improve confidence and self-esteem and improve knowledge and awareness of issues affecting them. By participating in this project, we will help the young people to devise their own community performances.



## NEW ACTING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

We will be starting two new acting courses: One with beginners, that will cover device theatre, movement, improvisation and neutral mask, and another advanced group exploring contemporary plays through physical theatre techniques.

Marina Pallarès-Elias will come back to La Casa Encendia in November 2018 to teach the course Raw Theatre: Theatre for Empowerment.



## DRAMA UNLIMITED: MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

The group will continue devising their play Side Roads, which will be presented on 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November in Cambridge and on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December in St Ives and Huntingdon.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!



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