

THEATRE WORKSHOP

‘Finding Jewels and Gaining Flower’

A theatre workshop based on the acting theories of Zeami.

Zeami, the greatest actor and playwright of Japanese Noh theatre uses elusive language and metaphors to talk about acting. He uses the word ‘*Hana*’, meaning flower, to refer to several ideas, among which are, the presence of an actor, the trajectory of her career, and the effects of acting, and more. At one instance he uses *hana* to refer to ‘freshness in acting’, and in another he uses it to summarise the ‘essence of a role’. He talks about the concept of ‘*Yugen*’ to refer to an ‘elegant expressiveness’ in performance, a mysterious and melancholic quality in performance that leaves a lasting impression in the minds of the spectators. He considers ‘*Yugen*’ as the most important quality in acting. He values economy in acting, where seven out of ten is felt and contained inside, only three out of ten is expressed outwards. Understanding Zeami’s concepts, his organisation of spatial and temporal qualities of action and dramaturgy, and his approach to representation and transformation are of immense value to actors and dancers, across genre, age and form.

The proposed workshop offers practical tasks that allow to breakdown, understand and embody the core philosophical concepts of Zeami. The workshop traces the following logic:

1. Learning the flower,
2. Transmitting the flower through effects and attitudes,
3. A mirror held to the flower,
4. A collection of jewels in effect,
5. Finding jewels and gaining flower.

Using ‘practice’ and ‘repetition training’ as central philosophy, and drawing from Yang style Tàijíquán, tools to free the natural voice, études from contemporary actor training approaches, scene studies, and gaze-work, the workshop aims to traverse a landscape of theatre and acting, finding jewels and gaining flower.

Workshop led by Sankar Venkateswaran

Fee: Rs.25,000 including food and accommodation (sharing-basis) in Sahyande Theatre, Attappady, Kerala.

Duration: 7 days residential

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Access to Sahyande Theatre:

Our studio is located in Attappady, Kerala. The nearest airport is Coimbatore, and the nearest railway station is Coimbatore, or Palakkad. It is a 2-hour journey from the airport/railway station by bus or taxi. The landmark to our studio is Malleswaran Temple in Attappady. Please search “Karnikachola” on Google Map and you can find us.

If you are interested, please send in your CV and a statement of intent, along with the following details **by Friday, 19 July 2019** to: satoko.theatreraw@gmail.com

Full name:
Email:
Mobile:
Address:
Date of birth:
Languages:

For any queries, please contact:

Satoko TS

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