Invisible Theatre Workshop Guide
The workshop is completely interactive and peppered with creative action methods that will take you through a series of dynamic ‘theatre of the oppressed’ exercises, image theatre and role-play, to devise a piece of invisible theatre that will be performed in public.

The Theatre of the Oppressed (www.theatreoftheoppressed.org) is a method elaborated by the Brazilian director Augusto Boal, who was influenced by the work of Paulo Freire, starting from the 60s, first in Brazil and then in Europe. This method uses theatre as means of knowledge and transformation of the interior reality in the social and relational field. The public becomes active, so that the "spect-actors" explore, show, analyze and transform the reality in which they are living.

In this workshop you will practice, play and perform techniques from the ‘theatre of the oppressed’. As a group we will choose an issue to explore which we will use in our final performance. Participants will be encouraged to challenge their preconceptions about the final piece throughout the workshop.

Though no drama experience is necessary to participate you must be willing to actively explore new methods and best practice learnt through skills sharing & networking in a safe and supportive environment.

What is Invisible Theatre?
Invisible theatre is firstly theatre, there are actors and there are performances. The actors must play their roles as if they were performing in the traditional theatre to a traditional audience. But when a piece of invisible theatre has been rehearsed it will be performed in a place that is not a theatre to an audience that is not an audience. Does this sound confusing? I hope not. There is a performance and there is an audience – only the audience do not know they are witnessing a piece of theatre, rather they believe they are witnessing real life. The only people who know that it is theatre is you!

There are many reasons for doing invisible theatre, practitioners of the theatre of the oppressed use invisible theatre to raise issues and to get the public talking about an issue: it provides a platform for different views to be expressed.
The exercises we will be doing will be building different areas; exploring our senses; helping to remove cobwebs, activating our imaginations, improvisations and trust building within the group.

All the exercises will ultimately help us to sharpen our improvisations and performance techniques. At the end of the workshop we will have a short scenario that we will have devised as a group – it is this scenario (or mini play, whatever you want to call it) that we will be performing on the evening of the last day i.e. Sunday.

It will be a fun, intensive, exciting, and a testing long weekend for all of us. You will need lots of energy, commitment and courage.

The main point of emphasis will be one of sharing with each other, particularly how we feel after doing parts of our group work. To coin a phrase by the late Augusto Boal; ‘The true artist is never afraid to share their tricks’. Remember that above all we are here to enjoy ourselves, and to have fun.

**Workshop Structure**

The workshop allows you a chance to learn, reflect and develop on techniques and theories of the Theatre of the Oppressed, whilst using a range of creative action methods it will be responsive to the particular interests of the participants.

**Elements of the workshop are:**

- Theatre Of the Oppressed & ‘Boal’ techniques
- Narrative Improvisation
- Devising
- Role Playing
- Performance
- Exploring issues

**You will learn:**

- How to facilitate the creation of image work and role-plays which can be used to examine thoughts, feelings and behaviour.

- How to use exercises and scene work to facilitate skills training related to themes such as: oppression, victim awareness, conflict resolution and problem solving.
• How scenes & performances can be planed devised and performed with a range of different community groups.

The Venue
The workshop will take place in a venue in Central London. Exact details will be sent on booking.

Tony Cealy
As an actor director and trainer, I have worked for over 17 years with disadvantaged and disaffected groups using drama & theatre methods for workshops projects and learning programmes in project delivery, development and management, particularly in the areas of criminal justice, community arts, mental health, local authority, education and social services.

I develop projects and programmes that explore the impact of behaviour on adults & young people and people at risk, their families and others. This is achieved by, looking at the causes and consequences of the actions that have led them to act/offend.

The projects and programmes themselves vary from more recreational, usually drama-based activities leading to theatre or digital multimedia productions, to projects and programmes that analyse and challenge behaviour and help them resist the forces of exclusion and institutionalisation as well build and develop key social/life skills.

Within these projects and programmes personal histories of a person can become the content of the session(s). Drama methodologies are used to explore the behaviour in question: what factors led to the offending behaviour/criminal action, could different decisions have been taken? Who suffers? What are the underlying drives?

I believe in the notion that individuals have the capacity to respond in different ways to pressures from friends, families or environment. Crime is not always an inevitable consequence of personal difficulties, nor can it be validated as a career option. Other strategies are always available. To access and understand these however, requires the participant to use
imagination to deconstruct and critique what is familiar, and to envision alternative behaviours. The creative and performing arts have a particular appropriateness in offering a language within which these arguments and speculations can take place.

I am the founder member, and former director, of Noh Budget Films and since 1995 have worked developing drama-based responses to crime, anger management within probation/youth offending teams, social services departments, and special educational settings across the UK and increasingly internationally. I am currently working throughout the UK delivering drama-based gang intervention and conflict resolution learning programmes.

**What to Bring**
Issues that are important to you that you’d like to see explored and developed. Comfortable clothes and footwear to move around in and a notebook and pen.

**Workshop Structure**
The workshops take place over three days 10.30am–18.00pm: Friday, Saturday Sunday 7th 8th & 9th October & Friday, Saturday Sunday 25th 26th & 27th November

**Cost**
The cost is £60

Deposits are welcome but if the remaining balance is not received the by the 23rd September 2011 (for October workshop or 11th November 2011 for November workshop) your place will be offered to another applicant on the waiting list. If you cancel less than 3 full weeks before the workshop we will be unable to refund your fee.

Cheques or BACs payments should be made payable to Tony Cealy. Please include with your application, reasons why you want to do this and what you hope to gain. If you have further questions, you can email Tony at tony@tonycealy.com

To reserve a place, you should send a cheque to Noh Budget Films c/o the Studio 28 – 30 St Oswald’s Place London SE11 5JE
Invisible Theatre Workshop
Booking Form

Name........................................................................................................

Address........................................................................................................

Contact Number(s).................................................................

E-mail address..............................................................................................

Special requirements........................................................................................

Enclose is my Cheque or BACs payment of £.................

Please send cheques, electronic transfers or BACs payment to:

Account name: Tony Cealy
Bank: Halifax Plc
Sort code: 11-16-26
Account No: 08897402
Roll no: 2/63939785-10

I agree to pay the balance of........pounds by 23rd September or 11th November 2011 (If paying deposit)

Signed..........................................................Dated.........................2011

By participating in the workshop you are agreeing that Noh Budget Films are not responsible for any damage to property or loss or injuries to persons (however caused) sustained in the workshop and/or performance. Individuals are responsible for themselves and Noh Budget Films cannot be held responsible for participants who choose otherwise.

Tony Cealy
Noh Budget Films
c/o the Studio
28 – 30 St Oswald’s Place
London SE11 5JE
Participants from previous workshop:

“For me this workshop was about how we look at ourselves and what we believe about ourselves, as well as what we can do to make people more aware of important issues” – Owen Thomas, Education Partnerships Manager, Skyline Partnership

"Everyone in my organisation should take this workshop every year, because of the way it inspires and revitalises" – Sandra Brown, Director, Cycle of Life

“A powerful insight into image theory and its application to facilitation and performance training” Ebony Okolo, Artistic Director, Forsight Theatre

“A packed-full, exciting workshop that shows us what and how to make change happen dramatically and memorable in our daily lives”. Steve Wright, Connexions Manager London

“It works on a number of levels, helping to connect the personal & political to the wider context of the world we live in” Mary O’ Silver, Freelance Therapist & Counsellor

“Stimulating, involving and value for money” Paul Rackford - Actor

“Thoroughly enjoyable, contact me for the next one!” participant