



SATE 2019 NOVEMBER COURSE WITH NICOLAIA MARSTON

Slings and Arrows

The Power of Performance as a Teaching Tool

Venue: Hotel Schwanen, Obere Bahnhofstrasse 21, 9500 Wil SG

Date: 28 - 29 November 2019

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (9. a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday)

Fee: CHF 350.- (SATE members CHF 330.-).

Course Description

Nicolaia Marston writes:

“Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life’s longing for itself....You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.” Khalil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Plays are primarily written to entertain, educate or inform through performance. Playwrights rarely, if ever, write plays with the intention of making them academic subjects to be studied. That famous playwrights such as Shakespeare are now standard textbook material diverts from the original intention and therefore tend to be viewed by students as ‘boring’. Given that there is such a wealth of inspiring material in these plays, both language wise as well as ‘philosophically’, it should be a given that educators approach the study of these plays from a performance perspective rather than a dry academic analysis. Therefore, even when analyzing, a degree of practical, performative aspects should be included in the study to give a full picture. From my perspective as a performer, I will introduce different ways of approaching a character, blueprinting a play from the character’s perspective – and things that we call ‘table work’ and are by definition rather analytical (classic ‘school stuff’ possibly, but from the perspective of someone who wants to get the show on its feet or on stage).

I will also use more active approaches sound/speech, movement and emotion,

aspects that are very important in finding out things about the play, things you might not have discovered through simply reading and analyzing a play on the sheet it is written on.

So – from “sheet to feet” is the approach I’d like to take, as an alternative to page to stage, since the aim in the classroom rarely is to put on a performance.

Content:

1st part: Shakespeare – for Shakespeare, I tend to trust a more visceral approach – to hear it, to feel it, speak it out loud, to sound it out. More so than for many other, modern plays much of the information only gets transported via those channels. And only then truly comes alive.

2nd part: Modern/contemporary plays (if there are any specific wishes please let me know – I will otherwise choose and bring excerpts and/or send the info before the workshop)

For both aspects a considerable amount of what we’ll do will involve active participation, exercises, games etc.– of which hopefully the one or the other might be helpful to you in a classroom situation at one point or another.

Nicolaia Marston graduated with an MA in Acting from East15 in London.

She’s got an MA in English, German and Media Studies from Basel University and is a founding member of upstart entertainment.

She works as a freelance actress and director, workshop facilitator and acting coach as well as currently at a day-job at the Philosophicum Basel. With upstart entertainment Nicolaia launched the Shakespeare in the Courtyard series – so far 3 productions have been mounted in the wonderful medieval(looking) Courtyard of the English Seminar at the University of Basel. A favourite of many school classes in the area.

She’s interested in engaging the audience with current topics and finding new ways to use the art of acting for the art of living.

Further information on Nicolaia Marston: <https://www.nicolaiamarston.ch>

Registration

Applications should either be sent directly to the course organiser, Hansueli Müller, or you may also fill in the form on the SATE website (<http://sate.ch/New-Courses/>).

Participants are asked to find their own **accommodation**. This website gives you information on hotels and B&Bs in Wil: <https://www.stadtwil.ch/hotels>.

There will be an **optional communal evening** meal on Thursday night.

Details will be sent to participants in due time.