ALA Community Arts for Community Development Course *2007*

Application Form

Signature:	Date:

Please Return to:

Alâ Community Theatre and Education Project
Ballybane Community Resource Centre, Ballybane, Galway
Phone 086 846 1270 Email alagalway@gmail.com

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications is: 28th of September 2007

ALâCommunity Theatre and Education Project

Community Arts For Community Development

ALâ, a not-for-profit, personal development organisation using drama and the arts as developmental tools was established in 2004.

Since then it has run over 100 theatre skills workshops, participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade, and produced a number of plays.

ALâ gives everyone the opportunity to be involved. regardless of their nationality, religion, ethnic group, mental and physical ability.

ALâ is run by those who participate in its activities, and while there are officers who run the daily affairs of the organization, everyone is invited to all Executive Committee meetings and have an equal vote on all decisions.

For further information:

Phone 086 846 1270

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Community Arts For Community Development

ALà in conjunction with Crooked House Theatre Company Ltd Newbridge, County Kildare will run a 10 session course which aims to engage community development personnel with current themes, issues and models of practice emerging in the area of community arts. It is designed to promote the professionalisation of drama facilitators in the context of participatory arts practice in Galway. Some experience in drama and the arts will be an advantage; to those interested in pursuing this course it is not essential.

Objectives:
By the end of the course participants will:

- Have a deeper understanding of the methods used to generate participatory theatre projects in community development
- Be able to develop new theatre-based material for work with groups
- Be able to contextualise their own practice within a theoretical and historical framework
- Have a deeper understanding of the dynamics of groups
- Have a solid grounding in basic drama facilitation skills

Methods:
The sessions will use a mixture of facilitator-led discussion, short, practical exercises and small-group exploration of issues using drama techniques. Participants' own experiences and knowledge will be central to the themes. The course will be delivered in such a manner to suit all levels of academic achievement. However, it would particularly benefit those either very interested in, or with some experience in, theatre and performance. There will be a lot of movement-based activity, and a high proportion of participant-activity. However, people can be 'active observers' for some exercises and indeed for whole sessions if they do not feel able to participate. An 'active observer' records, documents and takes notes of what's happening. They feed this back to the participants.

Participation Requirements
Participants must have the support of a community group.
Priority will be given to people already working on a voluntary basis within a community.
A limited number of places will be available to those employed by personal, community and / or social development organisations

Cost of course participation.
The cost of the course will be **€100** (Flexible payment options are available. It is hoped to make this course affordable to all so if you need to discuss the fee please contact the coordinator.)

Number Of Participants
Minimum of 12 participants and maximum of 45.

Venue
Ballybane Community Centre, Castle Park, Ballybane, Galway

Certification
FETAC Level 5 Record of Achievement in Theatre Performance
A Certificate of Participation will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the full course.

Community Arts For Community Development

Course Content

Session 1: **Saturday 13th October 10 am – 5 pm**

INTRODUCTION
This session aims to provide a context for the training. It will introduce participants to each other and to the course and its tutor. We will explore some of the principles of facilitation, and look at general group dynamics.

Tutor - Peter Hussey Crooked House Theatre Company

Session 2: **Saturday 3rd November 10 am – 5 pm**

DEVELOPING A DRAMA WORKSHOP

This session will explore methods of groupwork that are theatre based. It will focus on developing a functioning drama workshop for use with community groups.

Tutor - Peter Hussey

Session 3: **Saturday 17th November 10am – 3 pm**

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This session aims to introduce the participants to some of the basic principles underpinning Community Development. There will be some case studies presented and discussed. Participants will be encouraged to develop links contexts for community arts work in the community development arena.

Tutor: Dave Donavan - Macnas

Session 4: **Saturday 15th December 2 pm – 4 pm**

INTRODUCTION TO DEVISING

This session will look at the principles and techniques behind devising as a process. Since many groups will have literacy problems, and since few groups would be ready to perform scripts early in a project, the devising process is the one that is most often used with community groups to help them articulate what it is they have to say. This session will be an introduction to how to do that.

Tutor - Peter Hussey

Session 5: **Saturday 12th January (08) 10 am – 5 pm**

WORKING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

This session will focus primarily on using theatre to engage groups with special needs. There will be and exploration of the dynamics found in special needs' groups, and practical exercises demonstrated to assist the facilitator in helping people with varying needs and abilities. Some examples and case studies will be used to illuminate points and processes.

Tutor: Kate Scuffle - ALà

Session 6 **Saturday 9th February 10 am – 5 pm**

Facilitation Skills

This session will look at the business of putting a drama session together. It will focus on planning, structuring, sequencing activities, building in evaluation time, using multiple methods of teaching, and dealing with facilitator's own anxieties. There will be helpful handouts and templates distributed that the group can use if they wish when they plan their own sessions.

Tutor: Peter Hussey

Session 7 **Saturday 1st March 10 am – 5 pm**

THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED TECHNIQUES

This session continues the work of the proceeding one, building on the reflection that occurred for participants in the intervening month. The methods used in this session will be participatory drama ones, where participants will engage in creating and reflecting on what they've created.

Tutor: Peter Hussey

Session 8 **Sunday 2nd March 10 am – 5 pm**

ISSUE-BASED DRAMA

This session will focus on the uses of theatre to explore social and political issues, such as poverty, capitalism, homelessness, drug-abuse, etc. It is the first in a process of work styled Theatre of the Oppressed. While many of the issues explored are heavy and sober, the participants' expression of them need not be. In most cases, emphasis is on working towards better social understanding of the nature of such problems, and indeed on the factors that might alleviate them. Therefore, the session will not be focusing on the pe4rsonal but on the social and on the political.

Tutor - Peter Hussey

Session 9 **Saturday 29th March 10 am – 5 pm**

GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

This session aims to show participants how to use the vast quantity of games and activities that are available for use in drama workshops. It will help participants categorise them into useful function-based units. The session will demonstrate several games and activities that can be used in group-work, as well as in community theatre. Finally, participants will be introduced to ways of making their own games and activities.

Tutor: Kate Scuffle & George Miller - ALà

Session 10 **Saturday 26th April 10 am – 5 pm**

Session Planning

This session aims to introduce the group to the practicalities of developing ones' own drama project. It will show them what is needed in terms of planning it, devising it, and delivering it. Some time will also be spent on evaluation and feedback. The session will also outline such areas as negotiating terms with employers; a brief introduction of insurance, health and safety and child-protection issues; and an overview of funding agencies. Because of the nature of this course, this session can only aim to provide a basic introduction to this area – participants will be advised on where to get further training and resources.

Tutor: Peter Hussey

Session 11 **Saturday 10th May 2007 10am – 3 pm**

Funding Workshop

This final session will look at funding opportunities for Community Arts and Community Development at a local and national level. A number of speakers will be invited to attend and speak about their funding opportunities. There will also be a workshop on tips for funding application success and important information to include in all funding applications. This last session will also involve Review and Evaluation of the Course

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications is: 28th of September 2007

This project was funded through a partnership of ALa City of Galway VEC, Galway City Partnership, Galway City Council and Galway County Council.