

Thursday, February 18, 2010



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The Company

Artistic Directors

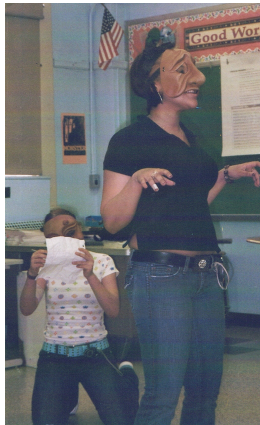
Kiran Rikhye
Jon Stancato

Members

David Bengali
Liza Wade Green
Aviva Meyer
Cameron J. Oro
Emily Otto

Board of Directors

Caroline Barnard
Kiran Rikhye
Rachel Rosenblatt
Aaron Sinay
Jon Stancato



Dear Theatre Teacher, School Administrator, or Workshop Coordinator:

The Stolen Chair Theatre Company, New York's only professional theatre company offering young people the opportunity to study **Commedia dell'Arte**, is now booking workshops and residencies for K-12 public and private schools.

Get students into their bodies and use this **500-year old comic tradition**, which has inspired popular culture from Shakespeare to Seinfeld, to introduce your students to theatrical fundamentals. Students will learn the **5 C's of Commedia** (Collaboration, Clarity, Character, Commitment, Cruelty) as they discover the historical origins of the western world's first professional theatres and (literally!) get behind the mask of the most popular characters of the Commedia. All workshops and residencies are **scalable in length**, address critical benchmarks from the **Blueprint for Theatre**, and can culminate in a **public sharing of the students' work**.

See workshop descriptions below:

INTRO TO COMMEDIA: After training their bodies in the movement vocabulary of Commedia, high school students will practice art of the entrance (*cameo*), progress to create their own comic bits (*lazzi*), and gradually develop (and perform!) their own satirical scenes (*canovaccio*), mastering the complete pantheon of the Commedia's masked and unmasked characters.

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP: The members of Stolen Chair will transport your students back to Renaissance Italy, where they will not only learn the exciting theatre tradition of *commedia dell'arte*, but also explore music and dance of the period, and even design and construct their own papier-mâché masks. This arts enrichment course can also support curricula in English class (satire) and Social Studies (the Renaissance).

INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE: Two performers from Stolen Chair will bring all twelve of the classic *commedia* archetypes to life in an engaging, interactive school-wide performance which will have everyone in stitches as they learn about the power of a people's theatre and the many ways *commedia's* legacy has become a fabric of our popular entertainments, from cartoons to sitcoms to movies.

ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST: Jon Stancato, Stolen Chair's Co-Artistic Director, has been directing and teaching *Commedia dell'Arte* to all ages and skill levels throughout the tristate area since 2004. He has trained in *Commedia* with The Roving Classical *Commedia* University, Dan Chumley & the SF Mime Troupe, and Maestro Antonio Fava. He is the resident *Commedia dell'Arte* instructor at Fordham's High School of the Arts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you soon to schedule a workshop!

Ciao,

Liza Green

Managing Director
646-441-0645
Liza@stolenchair.org

PS: Jon will be leading a *Commedia dell'Arte* workshop for adults on February 25 at 7pm. Teachers are invited to join us for half price OR audit workshop for FREE. Please contact me for more details!