

# THE EMBODIED THEATRE ANNUAL RESIDENCY 2015-16

Deadline for applications is: 5pm, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

## OVERVIEW:

The Embodied Theatre Annual Residency is a six-week course in physical devising and performance skills. This year it will be delivered in three two-week teaching blocks between December 2015 and May 2016; by performer-directors Alex Rigg, Ewan Downie and Al Seed.

There are no charges for participation and a subsidy will be provided to each of the twelve participants. Applications are welcome from outside of Scotland. The course is designed to provide established performers, actors and directors with the opportunity to extend their physical performance skills without having to spend extensive periods away from paid employment.



*Image: Oceanallover (Photography: Brian Hartley)*

## WHEN AND WHERE:

The course will take place in Glasgow (venues TBC) 10am – 5pm:

### Block 1

7<sup>nd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015

### Block 2

15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> February 2016

22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### Block 3

2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Precedence will be given to applicants who can commit to all three blocks but participation on only one or two blocks is an option if applicants have unavoidable availability issues. (See on-line application form).



*Image: Company of Wolves (Photography: Brian Hartley)*

## THE AIM OF THE COURSE:

Is to provide short bursts of intensive training that will provide participants with new, robust approaches to incorporating physical skills and methodologies into their practice. Work in large groups, duos and trios, and in solo performance will be covered. Each teaching block will end with an informal showing, so allowing participants to share their developing practice with a supportive, invited audience. There will also be opportunities to participate in more formal, public performance events. At the end of each teaching block each participant will meet with course leaders to jointly evaluate their progress to date.

## EMBODIED THEATRE:

'Embodied Theatre' does not refer to an established training method or school. Instead, it refers to a set of principles that the course leaders share in the creation of their own physically-driven work. These principles include the building of mental and physical endurance, and movement technique, as starting points for creating theatre, and an emphasis on the performer as the author of their own performances.

While the focus of the course is upon rigorous physical activity the value of voice, costume and objects is also emphasised. Inherent to the course is the fact that it will employ multiple methodologies and be led by practicing theatre-makers of distinct backgrounds. As such, the course itself is a collaborative devising process. Information about course leaders and their work can be found below.

## COURSE LEADERS:

**EWAN DOWNIE** is the Co-Artistic Director of **Company of Wolves**, ([www.companyofwolves.org.uk](http://www.companyofwolves.org.uk)) Scotland's only Laboratory Theatre ensemble. An award-winning director, writer and actor specialising in physical and devised theatre, Ewan's recent work includes *A Brief History of Evil* (Summerhall 2015), *Invisible Empire* (Summerhall 2013), *Cruzadas* (National Theatre, Porto, 2011); and *Hidden Birds* (2010), a piece about torture, which won both the Audience and Jury Awards at the Eurotopiques Festival in Lille, France.

Ewan was a member of Poland's renowned **Song of the Goat Theatre** from 2006-2012, with whom he won both a Fringe First and a Herald Archangel for *Songs of Lear* (Fringe 2012), and devised and performed in *Macbeth* (2006-2012) and *The Crucible* (2010).

**ALEX RIGG** is an artist working across a variety of performance and visual arts disciplines. His work is often of a large-scale and developed for a specific context or location. He creates performance events with his company, **Oceanallover** ([www.oceanallover.co.uk](http://www.oceanallover.co.uk)), and has designed set, costumes and choreography for many other companies including NVA, UZ Arts, Unique Events, Theatre Cryptic, Theatre Babel, Nation, Ramesh Meyyappan and Process 10:28.

He designs and builds green-oak structures that are functional and sculptural, making use of traditional framing techniques. Together with Trevor Leat he designs and builds large willow structures including the Wickerman for Wickerman Music Festival in Galloway, and pyrotechnic sculptures for Carlton Hill as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations. Much of what he makes involves collaboration with other artists, musicians and craftsmen. His work has been shown both nationally and internationally.



*Image: Al Seed (Photography: Maria Falconer Photography)*

**AL SEED** creates both solo and collaborative works of theatre drawing upon a variety of physical disciplines ([www.alseed.net](http://www.alseed.net)). He won the Total Theatre Award for Best Physical / Visual Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe 2015, for *Oog*, a Herald Angel Award 2008, for *The Fooligan*, The Jury Prize at The Arena Festival, Nuremberg, 2006, for *The Factory*, and a Fringe First Award 2004, for *Raw Beef*.

Al is the former Artistic Director of **Conflux**, 'Promoting street arts, physical theatre and circus in Scotland', and producers of SURGE, Scotland's annual festival of physical performance. Al has taught performance related disciplines for the past 15 years and has been a tutor on Fife College's Diploma in Physical Theatre since its inception in 2007.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR? :

The course will provide an intensive training for:

- Established physical performers wishing to extend their skills.
- Established actors wishing to develop 'sideways' into physical performance.
- Established directors and designers (who are willing to perform) wishing to deepen their understanding of physical performance.

The course is primarily aimed at Scottish practitioners but international applications are also encouraged.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

There are no charges for participation on the course. Further, participants will receive an expenses bursary of £100 for each week of their participation on the course.

International applicants and applicants based outside of Glasgow may also be eligible for support towards travel costs. Please contact us at [embodiedtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:embodiedtheatre@gmail.com) in advance of submitting an application to discuss these specific circumstances.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

If you are interested in participating on the course please follow this link to the on-line application form: <http://goo.gl/forms/pQkySnDsdN>

Deadline for applications is: **5pm, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.**

We will respond to all applications by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Please send all queries to: [embodiedtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:embodiedtheatre@gmail.com)

THE EMBODIED THEATRE ANNUAL RESIDENCY 2015-16 IS SUPPORTED BY  
CREATIVE SCOTLAND.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**