



Back by popular demand at Mermaid, this weeklong workshop from 10-3 **2nd- 7th April (Good Friday off)** for budding 7-12 year old performers will immerse them in Wonderland's world of drama, music, dance, opera and singing, costume, clown and comedy and theatre design. From backstage to centre stage this workshop will offer every child a chance to shine.

Wonderland Productions has been hailed as one of Ireland's brightest young theatre companies. It has run Wonderland Workshops and Camps since 2005, and in 2010 was Theatre Company in Residence at Mermaid Arts Centre where it first began its now nationwide Children's Workshops. Whilst at Mermaid it also premiered *Gulliver's Travels* as Mermaid's Christmas show, whilst also touring *La Locandiera*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Life Shop till you Drop* to Mermaid and to venues all over Co. Wicklow.

Our Wonderland Workshops uniquely combine a 'stage school' with the work of a professional theatre company. Every teacher is also a working Theatre or Opera Practitioner and a part of Wonderland's success story, and some of our students have even gone on to appear in some of our productions!

Every Wonderland Workshop's aim is to make friends, to perform, to learn lots -yes, but most importantly to encourage each young performer to grow

and develop through the performing arts - and just as importantly to have a lot of fun together.

**About this
Wonderland
Workshop**

This 5 day workshop for 7-12 year olds will run for 5 hours daily from 10-3 with 45 minutes for lunch. It is designed for a maximum of 22 students. After five days of



workshops and rehearsals, the workshop will culminate in a showcase at 2pm on Saturday 7th April of the drama, dance and music pieces the young performers have developed for an invited audience of family and friends.

The course will be led by Wonderland's Artistic Director - director Alice Coghlan in association with members of Wonderland's casts and production teams. Days 1-4 will each be taught by a different member of Wonderland Productions. The workshop leaders will have an assistant Mirjana Rendulic who is from Croatia and is the star of Wonderland's forthcoming premier *Sylvia's Quest* this July, who will lead the morning warm up and assist all the leaders over the five days, so there will be a very positive teacher-pupil ratio of a maximum of 1:11.

- Monday: Artistic Director Alice Coghlan will spend the first morning helping the young performers get to know one another. After this she will lead a workshop in comedy and clown buffoon. She will also help the young performers to brainstorm ideas for their Play in a Day on the Tuesday. Young performers who are interested in directing and writing may be particularly interested in this creative work.

- Tuesday: The star of Wonderland's hit Italian dinner theatre show *La Locandiera* Claire Jenkins <http://www.wonderlandtheatre.com/lalocandiera.shtml>, will teach acting, voice and improvisation. Together with the young performers Claire will devise a short 'Play in a Day,' where the young performers invent and imagine the story together based on the theme 'The



Future' before they write and create it. She will direct and help develop the young performers play with them.

- Wednesday: Back by Popular Demand - Amy Therese Flood is a trained dancer and actress and has worked on all of Wonderland's recent shows as an actor, dancer, dramaturg and assistant director. Her workshop will see a day of dance, where young performers will have a fun introduction to various dance genres and will also have a chance to choreograph their own dances and physical theatre routines, which will become part of the story of their Play in a Day. (If the young performers are keen to dance to a particular song they are

encouraged to bring in the music earlier in the week)

- Thursday: As the Summer Camp young performers requested to have a Day of Costume, so Sinead Lawlor, an up and coming designer and will spend the day helping the children to design costumes for the 'Future Epic' they devised on the first two days. She will also bring in some of her costumes for them to try on, show and explain some historical costumes she has made, and share her stories from her life as a costume designer. But most fun of all will be practising for the challenge of 'quick changing' off stage, the moments when an actor has to change and be back on stage in 30 seconds, the moments which could make or break a show like *Gulliver's Travels*.

- Friday: The pieces from the workshop days will be rehearsed on the last morning which is also the morning when the young performers will be shown the lighting and technical facilities at the theatre. For many of the young performers this is the highlight of the week - as they collaborate with the theatre's technician to choose and design the lighting and sound for each scene of their showcase, and select some sound effects too. This will also be the day when they rehearse the show ready for their enthusiastic audience that afternoon at 2pm.

Feedback from previous Wonderland Workshops

From parents

'I drove them up for two hours a day - but it was really worth it - they had a ball. We'll be seeing you at the next one!'

'He couldn't wait to come back again every morning and we had great concerts and plays at home every evening!'

From children

'I liked meeting new friends and the plays we made up together were amazing!'

'Learning about how the lighting and sound work was super-cool!'

What the young performers need to bring ...

The performers should wear comfortable clothes and shoes which they can easily move about in. A packed lunch, lots to drink and a mid-morning snack are also required. A notebook for their ideas and something to write with would also be useful. As the workshop and ideas progress they may like to bring music, props and costume ideas in from home if they like. For the showcase day we usually suggest the performers dress in bright block colours, but after a week's workshop they may decide differently!

Photographs from previous Workshops









Now for something about Wonderland...

The best way to see something of our work might be to enjoy these highlights videos from 4 of our shows on YouTube

LA LOCANDIERA - starring Claire Jenkins

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTA2XIBLS3o&feature=channel>

MOLIERE'S THE MISER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwPL9m4vThM>

SYLVIA' QUEST

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9QD9NVXfMk&context=C33a13bfADOEgsToPDskJaR7j3wBWMPFqnE5XbFGoG>

or check out our website for lots about our shows, our reviews and much more www.wonderlandtheatre.com