



Back by popular demand for a second summer at the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Wonderland's weeklong workshop from 10-3 **16th-20th July** for budding 7-12 year old performers will immerse children in our world of drama, music, dance, singing, sound art, clown and comedy and theatre design. From backstage to centre stage our workshop will offer every child a chance to shine.

Wonderland Productions has been hailed as one of Ireland's brightest young theatre companies by the Irish Times who described our production *The Miser* as 'Quite simply superb...witty wonderful Wonderland...without any risk of overstatement Wonderland is a company that is going places.' **FIVE STARS**. The Independent described Wonderland as 'one of the most strikingly inventive companies to emerge in recent years.'

We have run Wonderland Workshops and Camps since 2005, and in 2010 when we were Theatre Company in Residence at Mermaid Arts Centre we began our weeklong Children's Workshops, which have been so popular with children that they have gone on to tour to Arts Centres nationwide! Our first workshop in Carlow in July 2011 sold out in record time so we are delighted to be back by popular demand with our second weeklong workshop this July!

Our Wonderland Workshops uniquely combine a 'stage school' with the work of a professional theatre company and each one takes place on the stage of the theatre. Every workshop leader is also a working Theatre or Opera Practitioner and a part of Wonderland's success story, being either Wonderland actor or singer or a member of Wonderland's Production Team. Indeed some of our students have even gone on to appear in our productions!

Every Wonderland Workshop's aim is to make friends, to perform, to learn life skills - yes, but most importantly to encourage each young performer to grow and develop through the performing arts - and just as crucially to have the best of fun together.



About this Wonderland Workshop

This 5 day workshop for 7-12 year olds will run for 5 hours daily from 10.30-3.30 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 Friday 20th July 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 each day- who will lead the morning warm up and be on hand to give acting advice every day, 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 fun workshop in exercises focused on voice work, acting and comedy and clown. She will also help the young performers to brainstorm ideas for their Play in a Day on the Tuesday, and in so doing will share and demonstrate some of the principles of directing and writing. Alice will also tell the children about what her job as director and writer is like and who is who in the theatre and opera world where she works.

- Tuesday and Thursday is with the ever popular Amy Therese Flood who is a trained dancer and actress and has worked on all of Wonderland's recent shows as an actor, dancer, dramaturg and assistant director. Together with the young performers Amy will devise a short 'Play in a Day,' where the young performers will divide into three theatre companies to invent and imagine a story together based on the theme of 'Quests and Labyrinths,' which is also a theme of Wonderland's upcoming summer premier of *Sylvia's Quest* <http://www.wonderlandtheatre.com/sylvia.shtml>. Over the course of the week the performers will devise, write and create their show together. Amy's Thursday 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.

- Wednesday: We are delighted that Tommy Foster the sound designer and composer of our *Gullivers Travels*, *Dubliners* and upcoming *Sylvia's Quest* will spend a day helping the children to make and record soundscapes for their 'Quests and Labyrinths' plays. Tommy and the performers will bring as many noise making items and instruments as possible to theatre with the aim of creating a Foley Studio on stage! Tommy will also share some of experiences as a sound designer and show the children how he created the monstrous soundscape for the yahoos of *Gulliver's Travels*, how he evoked the Edwardian Dublin of James Joyce or the time-travelling fantasies of *Sylvia's Quest*.

- Friday: Artistic Director Alice Coghlan will return to rehearse the Play in a Day, dance and sound numbers for their enthusiastic audiences that afternoon. This is also the morning when the young performers will be shown the lighting and technical facilities at the theatre by the theatre's

In House Technicians. 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. And then it's on with the show at 2pm. 'There's no business like show business!'

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!'

'I was so nervous before I went on stage for the first time, but then when I saw the audience and the bright lights I loved it. I can't wait to come back next time.'

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. On the sound day seriously noisy items and instruments from home would be useful! 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







If you'd like to see more photos please go to
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wr9gxiwz91jeb53/t6RbsxO4JV>

Now for something about Wonderland...

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

SYLVIA' QUEST

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

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>

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