



This weeklong workshop for budding performers will immerse them in Wonderland's world of drama, music and song-writing, dance, clown, comedy, site-specific performances 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 companies. It has run Wonderland Workshops and Camps since 2005, and is now Theatre Company in Residence at Mermaid Arts Centre Bray, where it recently ran its first Wonderland Easter Camp.

Our Wonderland Workshops uniquely combine a 'stage school' with the work of a professional musical theatre company. Every teacher is also a working Theatre 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 too -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 7-13 year olds will run from 10-330 daily with 45 minutes for lunch. After five days of workshops and rehearsals, the workshop will culminate in a showcase 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 team. Days 1-4 will each be taught by a different member of Wonderland Productions. The workshop leaders will have an assistant who is also experienced in the world of performing arts, who will assist all the leaders over the five days, so there will be a very positive teacher-pupil ratio of a maximum of 1:10.

- Director Alice Coghlan will teach clowning, comedy and physical theatre. Clown and comedy has been at the heart of Wonderland shows such as *Life Shop till you Drop* and Alice has trained as a clown too. As Wonderland has a history of making shows in non-theatrical spaces such as *The Miser* in a Georgian House, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in an afternoon tea room and *The Hostage* in a Victorian House, Alice will would like to introduce the students to this way of working. Thus small groups of students can devise short plays which respond to and take place in the different spaces of the building e.g. offices, corridors and staircases, the café, the gallery or the dressing rooms, to name but a few possibilities.

- The star of Wonderland's hit Italian dinner theatre show *La Locandiera* Claire Jenkins, will teach acting and improvisation. Together with the students Claire will devise a play, where the students invent and imagine the story together before writing and creating it. Claire is a classically trained actress and has five years teaching experience in stage schools, and has played many leading roles in plays such as *Miss Julie*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *La Locandiera*.

- The star of *The Hostage* Morgan Cooke who played Pat and wrote all the music for that show, and who will be doing the same for Wonderland's upcoming production of *Gulliver's Travels* will teach music and musical theatre. In the morning the students will learn some of their favourite numbers from the musicals for the showcase. In the afternoon Morgan will write a song or two with the students, which will form part of the action of the play that they have already devised with Claire. Morgan can play the piano, the flute and lots of percussion instruments and would like any performers who can play an instrument to bring theirs along. Like Claire, Morgan has many years teaching experience and along with his Wonderland work, has enjoyed a fine career as an actor, composer, musician, band member and also writes and performs music for the Irish language children's puppet company Branar.

- Design has been a big part of Wonderland's shows and for that reason its period costume designer and maker of *La Locandiera* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Tara Jones Hamilton, will share her knowledge of costume design and help the students realise some of their ideas for costuming their play and showcase. She may also show them the wigs from *La Locandiera* and explain how they work.

- Dance is also a big part of Wonderland's work and the students will work with a choreographer to make up their own dance, to the music of the song that they wrote to the music of Morgan Cooke.

The pieces from the workshop days will be brought together on the final day of the workshop, when the performers will be shown the lighting and technical facilities at the theatre. In collaboration with Mermaid's technician they can choose and design the lighting 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.

### **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, but Wonderland will be providing all that they might need.

Please also email us a photo of your child for the program for the showcase.  
[alice@wonderlandtheatre.com](mailto:alice@wonderlandtheatre.com)

For the showcase day we usually suggest the performers dress in bright block colours, but after a week's workshop they may decide differently!

### **Now for something about Wonderland...**

The best way to see something of our work might be to enjoy these highlights videos from 3 of our shows on YouTube

LA LOCANDIERA - starring Claire Jenkins

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

LIFE SHOP TILL YOU DROP!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfGL2bWx1gU>

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](http://www.wonderlandtheatre.com)

## About Wonderland Productions Ltd.

Welcome to Wonderland! Audiences flock to our shows because they love our theatrical spirit.

Since our foundation by Alice Coghlan in 2003, our shows have ranged from our Italian dinner theatre hit *La Locandiera* to opera, new writing, classic comedy and music theatre. What unites our work is our sense of theatre as a vital, immersive experience, which can often mean a site-specific one, our use of live music and song to tell our tales, our love of surprises, and most importantly our commitment to developing emerging Irish talent.

2010 sees our residency at Mermaid Arts Centre Bray, our Edinburgh Festival run of *La Locandiera*, three of our hit shows on the road, and two new shows in production, the first being, Oscar Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray* performed over afternoon tea and the second being *Gulliver's Travels*. Alongside our performing and touring work 2010 sees us bringing our successful Wonderland Workshops and Camps to Mermaid and the Riverbank Arts Centre Newbridge.

☆☆☆☆☆ "Quite simply superb! Witty, wonderful, Wonderland... the most promising company since the debut years of Rough Magic"  
The Irish Times on *The Miser*.

"One of the most strikingly inventive companies to have emerged in recent years" The Independent on *The Hostage*.

☆☆☆☆☆ "A sheer joy to behold...The Wonderland company is one of the most interesting young groups working in Ireland"  
Irish Mail on Sunday on *Pagliacci*.

"Without any risk of overstatement, Wonderland Productions is a company that is really going places." The Irish Times on *The Hostage*.

### Wonderland's Production History

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilder National Tour 2010.

- *The Hostage* by Brendan Behan 2009
- *La Locandiera* by Goldoni (Two National Tours 2009 -10)
- *Life Shop till you Drop!* by Alice Coghlan  
(5 National Tours 2007-10, and international tour to Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- *Pagliacci* (Lunchtime opera at Bewleys Café Theatre 2008)
- *The Miser* by Molière (Dublin Fringe Festival 2007.)
- *The Wonderland Christmas Cabaret* (Bewleys Café Theatre 2005)
- *L'Amour Medicin* by Molière (Dublin Gay Theatre Festival 2005)
- *The Seagull After Chekhov* (Dublin Fringe Festival 2004)
- *The Spook Show* by Alice Coghlan (Dublin Fringe 2003)