



Back by popular demand at Mermaid, this weeklong workshop from 10-3 **25th-28th July, 11.30-5 on 29th July**, for budding 7-12 year old performers will immerse them in Wonderland's world of drama, music, dance, opera and singing, 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 is now Theatre Company in Residence at Mermaid Arts Centre where it most recently presented *Gulliver's Travels* as Mermaid's Christmas show.

Our Wonderland Workshops uniquely combine a 'stage school' with the work of a professional musical 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 4pm on Friday 29th of the drama, dance, puppet 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 Roseanne Lynch who is one of Wonderland's favourite actors and who most recently played the Queen of Lilliput in *Gulliver's Travels*, 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: The star of Wonderland's hit Italian dinner theatre show *La Locandiera* Claire Jenkins <http://www.wonderlandtheatre.com/lalocandiera.shtml>, will spend the first morning helping the young performers get to know one another. After this she will teach acting, voice and improvisation. Together with the young performers Claire will devise a short play, where the students invent and imagine the story together based on the theme 'A Fantastical adventure' before they write and create it.
- Tuesday: Artistic Director Alice Coghlan will lead a workshop in comedy and clown buffoon. She will direct and develop the young performers play with them. Young performers who are interested in directing and writing will also help her with this important work.
- Wednesday: As the Easter Camp children requested a singing and music day we are very happy to have Wonderland's Donna Gallagher an up



and coming opera singer, and the Chorus Lady in Wonderland's opera *Pagliacci* to lead a workshop. Donna is returning to Ireland for the summer after two exciting years training and performing in the US. Donna will guide the young performers in creating interesting characters in their songs, while incorporating basic vocal technique and healthy singing for young voices. Two songs will be taught. Preparing a song is also a good idea, but not required as there will be many group songs. (The children are asked to bring sheet music if intending to sing a prepared song.)

For more on *Pagliacci* please see <http://www.wonderlandtheatre.com/pagliacci.shtml>

- Thursday: 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. Back by popular demand, 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. (If the young performers are keen to dance to a particular song they are encouraged to bring in the music earlier in the week)
- Friday: The pieces from the workshop days will be brought together, when the performers will be shown the lighting and technical facilities at the theatre. In collaboration with the theatre's technician they can 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 4pm.

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

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF1SOkyCu7g>

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