

AUTHENTIC CLOWN and ACTING **Two workshops with Ira Seidenstein**

2005 is the launch of Seidenstein's *International School for Acting And Clown - I.S.A.A.C.* ISAAC will assist to re-establish this classical combination where Acting and Clown are parts of a whole, through teaching workshops based on actual stage experience. Ira has an extensive career combining Clown and Acting including work in virtually every genre of performance.

Authentic Clown™ Workshop

***Authentic Clown™* is informed classically and formed in contemporary ways. It is the rediscovery of traditional clowning via one's own body, humour and intuition.**

MAY 21 & 22. 10am to 4pm.

Ira taught the *Authentic Clown Workshop* at the *National Circus Festival* and independently in Brisbane. He is nearing completion of a Ph.D. in Education establishing new paradigms for the education of actors, performers, and directors. He is a Member of *Frank Theatre*. In January he directed *FrankenClowns* at Brisbane's Powerhouse. His next two projects in Brisbane are to direct *Twelfth Night*, and creating the new development of the clown theatre piece *Chaplin's Eye*.

Ira trained as a classical actor in Pittsburgh; apprenticed as a clown with founder of the Ringling Clown College, Danny Chapman; trained daily with Dell'Arte School founder Carlo Mazzone-Clementi, and studied a variety of performance and movement modalities such as yoga, tai chi, acrobatics, ballet, and since 2002 he has trained intensely in the *Suzuki Actor Training Method* with *Frank Theatre*. Ira has taught a variety of acting subjects in tertiary institutes internationally. He helped to establish the Commedia School that has continued for twenty-five years in Scandinavia. He was Artistic Director of the Swedish national circus high school and was co-director of a dance-theatre company for four years. During 1992 Ira was Resident Teacher and Choreographer in the *Bell Shakespeare Company*. During that time he also acted in all productions and co-directed *Richard III*. His portrayal of a variety of clowns in that season, received the attention of members of the RSC, academics, and his clowns were most popular with the public.

Ira has written and produced a large variety of plays including *Artist in Exile...Requiem for Strindberg*, *A Girl's Guide to Hamlet*, *The Battler*, and *Double Arlecchino!! Trouble!*. He has directed a several of Shakespeare's plays such as: *The Tempest* (in Swedish), *King Lear* (in Denmark), *Henry the Fifth* (with twelve women), and *Pericles*, as well as plays such as *My Life in Art* and *The Suicide*. Ira is the national trainer for the *Clown Doctors*, the creator of *Quantum Theatre: Slapstick to Shakespeare* (since 1993), and current Committee member of the *Australian Circus and Physical Theatre Association*.

Acting in Quantum Leaps

This workshop is two days to attain the key principles of *Quantum Theatre: Slapstick to Shakespeare*. These principles can work with any acting method to enhance the actor's ownership of the text via their own physical practices.

MAY 28 & 29. 10am to 4pm.

"Ira Seidenstein is one of the treasures of our fringe theatre" SMH

For more information contact: newtowndrama@newtowntheatre.com.au