

zone41 theatre & Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's
Manners Workshop Feedback from Participants & Auditors

Thank you for the workshop yesterday! I learned so much and I have to admit it was also a lot of fun. I think these types of workshops are important because in our little corner of the prairies our access to practical knowledge can be limited (simply due to geography). I love being an artist in Winnipeg, but it has its challenges and access to this type of learning is one of them.

Another thing I noticed about this workshop was that it gave members of the community (amateur, emerging, professional, and cornerstones) the opportunity to work and learn with each other in a non-competitive or outcome driven environment. I left reminded of how lucky I am to be part of this artistic community.

Thanks again to you, RMTTC and the unsinkable zone41 crew! I have learned so much from you and I know I will continue to.

*Heidi Malazdrewich - Director
Auditor*

Dealing with complicated props and costumes is a part of an actor's job that you usually don't get to deal with until shortly before a show opens. Being able to engage with other actors while in a full and complicated costume in a workshop context was not only a lot of fun, but also instilled in me a lot of confidence in the event that I ever have to wear a top hat on stage.

The portion of the workshop dealing with Victorian / Chekhovian era aristocratic behaviour and manners was especially helpful, as it provided very useful insight into the motivations and tactics of many of the types of characters we'll be dealing with in Chekhovfest. I would definitely attend something similar in advance of future Master Playwright Festivals. Thanks again,

*Toby Hughes - Actor
Participant*

One of the things I loved most about this workshop was the coming together of Winnipeg theatre artists to learn and explore together in the same room. As an emerging artist, it reminded me that no matter what level you are at, you will always have something new to work on and to learn. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to learn from working professionals in the Canadian theatre scene. It was informative and interactive and provided me with fantastic resources.

Samantha Walters - Actor

Auditor

Thank you for organizing the Manners Workshop. It was amazing; it adds a lot to the subtext when you have some understanding of the customs of the period and how it felt to dress in the same way. Guy Bannerman and Sherry Flett made it not only absorbing but wonderful fun.

*Kevin Anderson - Actor
Participant*

The workshop was fun and informative! A great jumping-off point for the festival. I mean, to have experienced professionals from outside our city come and share a special piece of knowledge with our local artists can only help us grow. And the best part about it is that we're learning together as a community.

*Tracy Penner - Actor
Participant*

Thanks to zone 41 and to MTC for the opportunity to work with Guy Bannerman and Shari Flett at the Manners Workshop on Nov. 16th. Guy and Shari bring a wealth of information with them and opened up a new way to look at text and characterization in these later 19th century period pieces. It was a delightful day and the many ideas I came away with are already very useful to me in my preparation for playing in The Cherry Orchard for Chekhovfest. With much appreciation,

*Melanie Whyte - Actor
Participant*

It was a lovely, instructive and informative day. Sharry and Guy were personable, approachable, sympathetic, knowledgeable and entertaining. A worthwhile exercise. Thank you.

*Maureen Taggart - Producer/Shoestring
Auditor*

Congratulations! Yesterday's (Saturday, November 16, 2013) workshop was so amazing. It was wonderful having two gifted and knowledgeable professionals share their wisdom and experience with us.

It was great to see such a large group get together for the day - producers, playwrights, directors, actors, students and stage managers.

Speaking with other auditors and participants, I was struck by how much they all appreciated the opportunity to work with (and learn from) Sharry and Guy's experiences, particularly relating to our upcoming ChekhovFest in 2014.

Their wealth of knowledge, (especially their attention to detail) and hands-on approach with the participants was very informative. I know I wasn't the only one taking copious notes during the workshop.

Thank you for bringing them to Winnipeg. I hope that there will be more opportunities to bring in professionals from across Canada to inform, teach and share their expertise with our community.

Sylvia Fisher
Stage Manager - Producer
Auditor