

## DEVisING WORKSHOP FOR BA STUDENTS IN PERFORMING ARTS/DRAMA/THEATRE STUDIES

Award-winning devising company Dende Collective is offering a workshop for HE students following modules on devising or devised performance during January – May 2006.

This workshop has arisen out of the company's Arts Council-funded tour of OneFourSeven – a devised show around the theme of waiting rooms – which toured the UK earlier this year.



“..strangely for an evening framed by a death, it was funny almost without remission. Inventive, poignant and hilarious: a troupe to watch.”

**Venue Magazine– Mayfest - Bristol Old**

“Outstanding international theatre of the highest calibre”

**What's On, London.**

### **Workshop Aims:**

- To enable students to experience, at first hand, the research process the company uses to devise its performances.
- To give students a ‘tool box’ of strategies to use when devising their own work.
- To create a template for a whole group devised performance.
- To explore the problematic issues around the closing of a piece of work.

### **Methods of Learning**

Students are treated as actors before they arrive into the space and engage throughout the workshop as practitioners rather than the passive recipients of knowledge. Through a variety of exercises, games and focussing techniques, students acquire a range of skills that will enable them to gain confidence in developing their own work. There is also provision for students to observe video material of the Dende production and question the company on the path the devising process took.

## **About OneFourSeven**

*OneFourSeven* explores the memories and recollections of Angelo Walker, a young immigration officer who tries to come to terms with the onset of a serious illness. Through a series of waiting rooms, the audience were presented with colourful and poignant moments from the life history of one man and his family

However, the piece developed out of a long research process about waiting rooms and it is interesting to note that when the company has led this workshop with students before, the devising process takes on a life of its own and can lead into completely different directions. The central theme of waiting rooms remains a constant however, as does an exploration of what it means to wait, the behaviours, motifs, and movements associated with waiting and how to create narrative from action.

### **Equipment needed:**

**1 x music centre**

**1 x video player**

**1 x drama studio or practical rehearsal area.**

**Time: 2.5 hours**

**Fee: £350**

### **About the company:**

*Dende Collective* is a London-based theatre company and is a growing multi-ethnic collective of artists from many nations all united in creating pioneering new work through a total integration of writer, performer and director in the devising process. It became a limited company on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2004 and a registered charity on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The company was formed in 1999 and has worked with people from three to ninety-three years of age and has a strong tradition of engaging in educational work. The company will be resident at Contact Theatre in Manchester during April 2006 where we are developing a new educational project with 16-25-year-olds.

This workshop was recently run for the University of East London's BA (Hons) Performing Arts Students on its *Identity, Process and Performance* module.

Referees: Ana Gillespie, Studio Producer, Lyric Hammersmith.

Mark Hunter, Course Leader, University of East London,  
BA Performing Arts in the Community.

