



The Nomadic Academy of Fools
Director: Jonathan Kay

Information Pack

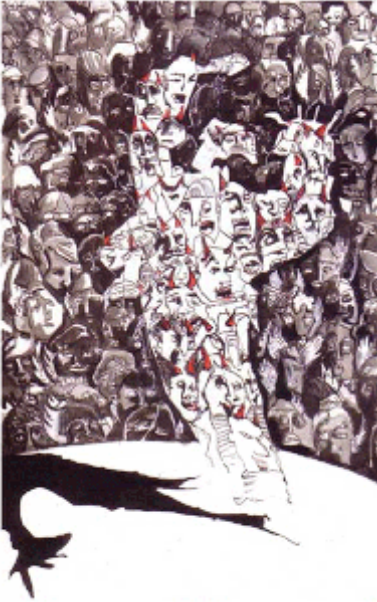
For year commencing September 2010

Attic Theatre
The Studio, 26 Arundel Place, Brighton, BN2 1GD
Company Reg. 1161935 Charity No. 267327
www.jonathankay.co.uk

Images used in this document are by Sarah Corbett: tropicalbroadcast@hotmail.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHAT IS IT?



The Nomadic Academy has been born out of the lifetime's work of Jonathan Kay, a performer who has been developing his unique technique in Fooling over the last 37 years. This technique concerns itself with a performer's relationship to the audience, teaching performer tools which rejuvenate audiences, creating spaces for liberation.

The area of exploration is 'the Fool' – an archetypal quality of playfulness embodied by many jesters and clowns through the ages. However, the aim is not to recreate a historical figure, or to develop traditional clowning skills; it is for participants to explore within themselves their own capacity for play, for Fooling and for creativity through theatre.

The Academy aims to awaken the Fool by mixing old skills and developing new ones, by changing your perception of the world, and by encouraging you to inhabit the now.

A New Nomadic Academy of Fools .
Having only run for three years, the Nomadic Academy of Fools (NAF) has sat down to re-evaluate the structure of proceedings and have undergone a complete redesign. Due to your previous interest in Jonathan Kay and Fooling, we are forwarding you on this information to see if next year's Academy is something that you may still wish to be in or now interested in becoming part of?

P^{ast}
Over the last three years the Academy has run on a three years the Academy has run on a touring basis, spending nine days a month in a different location around the UK and Europe with a view to developing an established touring circuit for any work the Fools create. The work developed grew from these nine day blocks, though proved a very slow process, taking two years for the current Shakespeare production of Richard II to come into being. Over the last three years the currently

touring Fools have learnt to improvise using the Fooling structure individually and in groups, have developed a full Foolish production of Richard II and have begun to each discover their own Repertory Company of characters with whom they can use to interact with other Fools in short and long scenarios of a Comedia de Tragik nature.

Present

We have decided that the Fools who have been working with Jonathan Kay up until this date are ready to fly the nest and begin touring the work they have developed without the continuing tuition of Jonathan. I will now refer to this group as A Company of Fools (ACF) though we have not yet agreed upon a name and may even continue to use the name Nomadic Academy of Fools. Another reason we have decided to change the way the Academy is structured is due to Jonathan Kay's son George beginning school this year, so Jonathan will need to work closer to home, rather than living continuously on the road. We have decided therefore that the ACF will tour the circuit next year with the work they have developed so far and they will also run weekend workshops in each location, working together to introduce the Fooling Structure to the general public (The first five steps, Commentate, Demonstrate, Speculate, Judge & Capitulate, leading into Look, See, Be, Fly).

Jonathan Kay instead will train new participants in longer blocks, with newly auditioned Nomadic Academy of Fools (NAF) members and also those from the general public who have trained in the Fooling Structure before, to develop work with the intention of each block resulting in performances. Participants will therefore have already learnt the first five steps of the structure in previous training with Jonathan and will be familiar with Look, See, Be, Fly. Participants will be interested in developing their previous experience with Fooling into work that is fully realised, intent on creating characters and performances.

Those taking part in these 2 & 3 week blocks of training who are not signed up for the full NAF year, will donate a fee for the block of training as a one off payment appropriate to the length and depth of the workshop, but

new members of the NAF will donate for the year in its entirety, making a considerable saving, and will also be privy to three one week trainings with both Jonathan Kay and the ACF where everyone will work together at the deepest level of Fooling on a more personal level through the use of Circle Plays.

The work will be more beneficial for people joining the Academy, working continuously throughout the whole year with Jonathan, rather than those who just participate on the courses, even if they came to all four, because Jonathan works on a continuous process of unwinding and developing each individual Fool, mainly through the device of everyone working together in a circle over a long period of time, learning from each other as well as from him ways to clearly see each other's defence mechanisms and discover how to get past these so we are able to work together as performers who are completely vulnerable and open. This is the true work of the Fool. New participants moving through the NAF will also be doing so with a view to developing work in a professional capacity that, after the year is over, will be toured on the existing tour circuit, as the ACF are doing now. They will also become woven into the fabric of our new venture, which is the running of Spilsby Theatre in Lincolnshire, where we will begin programming and developing new work this year. Members of the public taking part who are not doing the whole NAF course will be missing out on all of these opportunities. Though they will still get the chance to work with Jonathan on a deeper level than normally available from just the weekend workshops.

Future
This is an exciting new phase of the Academy's exciting new phase of the Academy's development and, although it feels pretty daunting for those concerned, is also full of liberation. We hope that you will be interested in seeing how these unfold and curious to see how this new era of the Academy may work for you and your participation in Fooling. Come play!

The Academy functions in a yearly learning cycle, creating both a school and a company which eases open

traditions. The NAF tours seven locations across the UK and abroad, the ACF tours ten.

WHO WILL IT BE?

Fools in the Nomadic Academy enter on an annual basis. Any professional may apply. The application is based on a presentation to the Academy in which the applicant shares their personal and professional status, their perception of life, their wishes and desires. You do not have to be a trained performer to gain entrance to the Academy but it does help. Training is ongoing, and there will be annual auditions for new participants.

The Academy accepts fools, but not idiots. If you have seen life, but don't drag it around too much, then read on...

HOW TO APPLY:

Think about your life so far, and consider these questions:

Do you create your own world?

Do you have empathy?

Can you communicate?

Are you old enough?

Are you young enough?

Are you in communication with yourself?

What is happening in your life that makes you want to be part of this?

Does the idea of jumping up in front of an audience excite you?

If some or many of these questions inspire or agitate you, then you may be suited to the Academy. If you believe you should be a part of it, let us know, and you will be encouraged to participate in short workshops. Direct applications for audition from people who have never worked with Jonathan are accepted, though applicants should be aware that cold auditions are not encouraged.

The deadline for applications is **31st August 2010**, auditions will take place in Hampshire on 11th & 12th September, and the course will begin at the beginning of October. If successful, you will be informed within 2 days

of your audition, and given any remaining information required.

The application form is available at the end of this document. Once we have received your application form you will be contact with details about the auditions, which are explained bellow...

HOW DO I AUDITION?

The auditions will take place over the weekend of 11th & 12th September 2010.

On the Saturday you will take part in a day workshop with Jonathan Kay and the existing Fools. You will be asked to individually lead part of the day yourself. This will be a five minute piece where you can express who you are and what you will be bringing to the Academy. The emphasis in Fooling is on improvisation and the audience, so it does not have to be a performance. We are looking for warmth and a connection to the people you are talking to, so we can experience who you are.

On the Sunday you will speak to Jolie Pierce, the Director of Fooling, about how you intend to support yourself and the Academy through a year of training. It is not cheap to travel with the Academy and it is not cheap for the Academy to run. We ask for a significant financial donation from you to keep the work alive. The donation process means the training is open to all and that each individual takes responsibility for their own commitment to the work and the Academy.

The audition fee is £50 and non-refundable. The charge is to cover our costs and it represents your commitment to the work. We will need to have received your completed application form and your cheque for the £50 audition fee by the **31st August**. Once these have been received we will then contact you with all the details for getting to the audition. You will be expected to stay for the whole weekend and this will be the only weekend audition taking place, so if you are unable to make this date then you cannot be considered for this year's Academy.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
JOIN? AND HOW MUCH WILL
IT COST?



If accepted into the Academy, you are committing to attending **all** of the training periods for next year. You will be asked to donate a sum of money to pay for the entire course before attending the first week of training in Vic.

When making the donation, you should think about your commitment - the fees are what enable the course to run, and you should consider not only your own situation, but also what you would pay for similar contact time in the academic sector. If you have no idea of a suitable donation please contact us for a suggested amount. Funding may be available from your local or national authority for professional training or further education.

Once you have committed to the Nomadic Academy, you are required to attend all the training periods, and it will be your own responsibility to raise the funds needed to allow you to do this. We can provide an estimate of how much is required for an entire year, but you should consider the following:

- Travel from your home to the training locations
- Food costs
- Accommodation

Where possible, we will organise cheap accommodation and group meals to reduce costs, but this is not the Academy's responsibility.

As a member of the Academy, you will have time to work, as the training will run for two 3 week periods, two fortnights and three one week periods (to a total of 106 days), with big gaps of time in between these periods of training, between 3 weeks and 8 weeks in between, so you will have the opportunity to work outside of the training times – if you wish to try and earn money through performing the acts you have been developing through the Academy then Attic Theatre will help you by providing contact details for promoters and venues in the area, as well as additional publicity for any shows you may be doing.

**ACADEMY LOCATIONS AND
DATES**

The Academy will train in the following locations..

1st – 10th October

Vic, Catalonia	
29 th October – 21 st Nov	BAC, London
December	Christmas Production @ Spilsby (Auditions)
14 th – 30 th January	Brighton, Sussex
18 th – 27 th February	Glastonbury, Somerset
11 th March – 3 rd April	Spilsby, Lincolnshire
6 th – 22 nd May	Berlin, Germany
17 th – 26 th June	Norfolk, UK

We reserve the right to change any of these locations with appropriate notice.

TRAINING STRUCTURE

Each training period will run as a residential, all taking place in one location. You will be expected to arrive on the Friday, ready to start early on Sunday, and be committed to the full 24 hours for each of these days as you will often work late.

VIC WEEK

Introduction to the Academy

Everyone is asked to arrive on the Friday morning to settle in and be ready to begin the week. In the afternoon on the first Friday we will all meet together for a planning session where any administrative details can be discussed and the week ahead planned out. This week of training will focus on forming as a new group of fools who all understand the Fooling Structure and also to introduce you to A Company of Fools (ACF), who will be off touring work throughout the year of your training. ACF will be attending this session to get to know you all and to welcome you to the work. This week will not be open to the public. You will all meet together for similar closed training weeks with the ACF two more times throughout the year.

LONDON TRAINING

Discovering your Repertory Company

During these three weeks of work you will begin exploring your innate characteristics and archetypal qualities with a view to developing these into fully evolved characters for use in improvisations. You will be working with a group that is open to the public, with a view to developing work that can be continued after the training period has been completed and a short tour of the work after training will be actively encouraged and administratively supported. By the end of this period of training you will have introduced your developing characters to each other and will be discovering how to work together as artists and what you can rely on the others for as characters. You will begin to create short Scenarios from these interactions, resulting in a series of Scratch Performances at the end of the three weeks where you will present your work to audiences around London.

SPILSBY PANTO

Full Production

This is a chance for the whole ensemble of both the Nomadic Academy of Fools (NAF) and ACF fools to work professionally with an audience, though you will all have to audition. As the work develops and you become more confident with the Fooling technique you will be working with the audience in a more professional capacity, but at first there will only be Scratch Performances in which an audience is invited to come along and watch your work in progress for a donation.

**GLASTONBURY CIRCLE
PLAYS**

Going Deeper

Everyone is asked to arrive on the Friday morning to settle in and be ready to begin the week. In the afternoon on the first Friday we will all meet together for a planning session where any administrative details can be discussed and the week ahead planned out. These nine days will be devoted to Circle Plays. Each Fool works with Jonathan to find a question that really hits home and then individually enter a play, supported by Jonathan and the other Fools, exploring one's inner world until an answer is discovered for the question.

BRIGHTON TRAINING

Working with your Repertory Company

During these two weeks of work you will begin to develop continued after the training period has been completed and a short tour of the work after training will be actively encouraged and administratively supported. By the end of this period of training you will have longer Scenarios from your interactions with each other's characters, resulting in a series of Scratch Performances at the end of the two weeks where you will present your work to audiences around Brighton.

SPILSBY TRAINING

Working Professionally with your Repertory Company

During these three weeks of work you will begin developing full productions through weaving scenarios together with your now fully evolved characters. You will be working with a group that is open to the public, with a view to performing a run of shows during the last week as part of the theatre's programme. By the end of this period of training you will have worked professionally using the tools you have been learning throughout the year.

BERLIN TRAINING

Working Abroad with your Repertory Company

During these two weeks of work you will begin exploring how your full productions are experienced by different audiences. Berlin is a vibrant city with different spaces with varied audiences who are great at feeding back and donating. So after developing further your full productions you will be taking your show to different locations around the city. You will working with a group that is open to the public, with a view to performing a run of shows during the last week.

NORFOLK WEEK

Completing the Academy

Everyone is asked to arrive on the Friday morning to set up camp and be ready to begin the week. Each fools from both the NAF and ACF will have half a day each to invite friends and family to come and share in what they have learnt throughout the year. It is your special day and you can do whatever you wish to make it magical for you. We will also use this opportunity to discuss the structure for the following year.

THE LONG-TERM VISION

THE FOOLS

It is the intention of the Nomadic Academy of Fools to develop a world wide community of professionals – not simply artists but any person whose work takes them into contact with others on a regular basis. These fools will continue the work of the Fool – encouraging others to create, not simply to be created. Each Fool will encourage others to strike out against the prescribed wishes of the world in their own creative direction.

Fools will come back to work together, with other artists and within the Academy as part of the company. The relationship between the fools and the Academy will be one of mutual benefit – working together and separately to create a more Foolish world.

THE ACADEMY

The long term vision for the Nomadic Academy is to roam throughout the world, crossing boundaries and treading lightly wherever it goes in a magical structure known as

The Knub.

The Knub will not only contain the Academy, but will also host touring shows and work with various individuals and groups. They will range from local people who may be experiencing for the first time what Fooling can bring to their own community, to companies that are part of the Fool's-Wide-Web. These people will be those with close links to the Academy, and who have trained in the Fooling Technique and are spending time travelling with the school from one place to the next, developing and presenting their work.

In the Knub the audience is paramount. Wherever it roams there is a space where the public (and therefore the Audience) can go to experience the ultimate inclusive art, where they will see something that is always original and where they can experience a taste of the truth - as a show, a workshop or something completely different...





**Nomadic Academy of Fools
Application Form
2010-2011**

IMPORTANT: Please print out and return this form handwritten, with a recent photograph of yourself and your £50 audition fee, in a cheque made payable to Attic Theatre, by 31st August 2010:

Name:	Date of Birth:
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Address	Postcode:
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Tel:	Mobile:
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Email:	Website:
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Profession:	Employment status:
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What will you bring to the Academy?

Please detail what you would present at an audition (you should include other media if it represents your work):
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Previous training and experience (please include training with Jonathan, other theatrical training, and any experience you have as a professional in any capacity):

Please list any other relevant/recent work experience:

Please nominate 2 referees (not family or close friends):