

## **Workshop Descriptions** **for The Great Dickens Christmas Fair 2016**

### Orientation I - All You Need to Know about Dickens Fair – A Survival Guide: Bob & Sharon Collier

This is an introduction for first-timers to what really happens behind the scenes. We'll tell you what you need to do first, how you can communicate with us online and who's who. We'll show you how to get around the Cow Palace and we'll fill you in on the basics of your daily routine – backstage, parking, meals, passes, security, closing routine and lots more. Learn what to expect on that huge stage we call “The Streets of London”. How to stay healthy, have fun and entertain our patrons.

### Orientation II - A Beginners Guide to Life and Times in Our London: David Batzloff

This workshop will provide a brief overview of mid 19th century London life, pointing out some significant historical happenings and people. We'll also cover some who's who, and what's where in our recreation of Dickens' London. This workshop is NOT intended for people that have been recent participants of the fair. If you've taken orientation in the last five years, please skip this workshop and leave room for the new folks. Thanks.

### Awareness, Health and Sexuality in Environmental Theater: Laura Cirolia

Learn how to better understand and cooperate in the delicate area of sexual communication related to innuendo, characterization and body language. Develop new tools to better give and receive full consent and mutual agreement in interactions. Prevent misunderstandings, crossed boundaries and illicit interactions while performing and enjoying the aspects of Victorian London that are appropriate for your age and character. Learn a special breathing technique to activate both hemispheres of the brain for instant access to greater creativity. Learn which specific foods feed the brain and amplify it's abilities to sense and tap into expanded clarity, balance and awareness.

### Children's Workshop: Judith Hinkel-Dunn and Robin Edwards

This workshop is for children aged from 6-10 to help them identify the characters of Fair; how to meet and greet their elders and the visiting public. There will be time for games, learning a song or two, how to bow and curtsy and how to make their own Fair toy and learn how they may safely spend their fair day.

### Youth Workshop: Judith Hinkel-Dunn and Robin Edwards

This workshop is for young adults from age 11-16. We will focus on safety, how to support a show, what was it like living in London at this time, how to acknowledge their audience, how to identify the major characters, how to help them fill their day, and appropriate buzz words to greet the visitor, fellow performers and their elders.

### Guardian ↔ Youth Workshop: Robyn Harvey

Taking on the role of guardian for a minor at the Dickens Fair is more than just signing a piece of paper. It means that you are responsible for that minor, often in their parent's stead. This year we're including a workshop specifically to address guardianship rules and offer helpful information for those who chose to take on this role, and **guardians must attend with their charges**. (Required for Guardians – offered on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday only at the Cow Palace.)

**(Both Victorian Speech classes below limited to 50 Participants)**

### Victorian Speech - Beginning: Kate Kravets

If you aren't speaking Cockney (or another regional English dialect), Scots, Irish or "foreign", this is the first language class you need to take. Includes English structure, attention to basic pronunciation, phrasing; spoken language to hear and repeat.

### Victorian Speech - Advanced: Kate Kravets

**Please have taken the beginning class** or be comfortable and experienced with the basics of “Received Pronunciation;” or “RP,” as spoken by the upper classes and the merchants and purveyors of goods to those classes. Review pronunciation and techniques. Develop the nuances of your own character's speech. Enrich your vocabulary to provide our guests with a glorious feast for the ears. Handouts provided – recording allowed with permission of class members.

**(Both Cockney classes below limited to 25 participants)**Sounds of Cockney: Carrie Smith

We'll explore all aspects of the sounds of Cockney, discuss various slang and how to make it accessible to our audience. You'll also get a feel for the Cockney's love of language and confident swagger. You'll leave knowing how to talk to anyone, high class or low! Prerequisite: None. (Actors are also encouraged to take Conversational Cockney – *See below*).

Conversational Cockney: Carrie Smith

You've been to Cockney classes. You've learned the sounds. Now how the bloody 'ell do you actually talk?!? Practice in this fun and also practical way to get more comfortable with the cant, accent and attitude of Cockney. Prerequisite: The Sounds of Cockney or Basic Cockney. ***Not Offered 1<sup>st</sup> day – Oct 29<sup>th</sup>.***

Dialects Coaching: Carrie Smith

Coaching for an array of British Isles dialects is being offered during rehearsals (2:30-5:30, by appointment). Please inquire immediately before or after Carrie's Cockney classes.

Irish Dialects: Shirleigh Brannon

This workshop will cover sounds and characteristic features of Irish dialects of English, some specialized vocabulary, and simple phrases to use in character. Combine with Irish Character Development. *Offered 3<sup>rd</sup> day only – Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.*

Irish Character Development: Shirleigh Brannon

This companion workshop will focus on history and background for the development of an Irish character in Dickensian London; will include interaction. Why is your character in London, family history, where is your character from in Ireland (including town, city, county). If your character is Irish, these two classes are for you. *Offered 3<sup>rd</sup> day only – Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.*

Victorian Scots - Who And What Were They?: Elheran Francis

We'll cover the characteristics and sounds of a Scots dialect of English, along with some specialized vocabulary. Going beyond just accent or language. Will discuss aspects of cultural, financial, class and other impacts to how one wants to develop their character. Is your character Scots? *Offered 3<sup>rd</sup> day only – Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.*

Meet & Greet: Harry Steeper

Develop an all around tool kit for Meet & Greet. Learn to be aware of the kind of character you are. Learn to perceive territorial space, how to approach a customer, to perceive the nature of the customer you're approaching, and to pay attention to body language. Learn how to enter and to exit a conversation, what to say in a conversation, the "dos and don'ts" of customer interaction and how to handle trouble if it arises. Learn how to interact with them as fellow Londoners.

Physical Characterization, Dickens Style – Lecture: Therese Porter & Rydell Downward

In the tumult and noise of Fair, our audience picks up most of its cues about who we are from what we are projecting physically. What differentiates us, and makes us stand out as "part of the show," is how we comport ourselves. We will guide you through the process of constructing the physical aspects of your character, using basic tools we all use in our every day lives, showing you how to parse the language of the body and build marvelous Victorian characters from that language.

**(Physical Characterization - Lecture, within the past two years, is a prerequisite for all character, acting and improv labs below, if so indicated.)**

Physical Characterization, Dickens Style – Lab: Therese Porter & Rydell Downward

We have revised the Lab to include a variety of exercises to help you put what you have learned from the lecture into action to keep your character strong, vivid and grounded. You MUST have taken the lecture workshop within the past two years to attend the Lab.

Improv II – Study in Dramatic Improv (Age 15 & above or instructor’s approval): Ana Elizondo – (A 2 hour workshop)

**Master Class (Previous Improv is a prerequisite for this class. Limit - 16 participants)**

We are all very versed in comedic improv; but not many are able to do dramatic improv (believably). I will teach, in a two hour span the art of Dramatic Improvisation. We will take what we have learned from our previous classes in Improvisation or Theatrical workshops and integrate it into a performance to wrench the very soul...or maybe make you cry, or smile, or be angry, or just truly be. *Offered 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days (Saturdays) only.*

Discovering Improv for Young Folk (Age 6-14): Robert Jerome

**(Physical Characterization Lecture, within the past two years, is prerequisite for this class. Limit - 20 participants)**

This class will look at the basics of improv and connection with other characters on the street. The class is formatted to help kids and younger teens to begin to use their imagination and connect it to what they bring to the magic of the faire.

Finding & Staying in Character: Sandey Grinn

**(Physical Characterization Lecture, within the past two years, is prerequisite for this class. Limit - 30 participants)**

The tools to discover, define and keep our character(s) alive throughout the day. In the first half of the class we will identify the elements (movement, posture, etc.) that we use to step into and then stay in our character. In the second half of the class we will be engaging in games and exercises both in and out of our characters - and all of it a lot more fun than that just sounded!

Characterization Deep Dive: Anders Hudson

**(Physical Characterization Lecture, within the past two years, is prerequisite for this class. Limit - 20 participants)**

We will be expanding the concept of "first person characters", not just a back story, but as a personality that reads well and is ready to interact with the streets of London in a fun and entertaining way. A previous Improv class will be very helpful.

Audience Interaction: Mark Shanks

Don't perform for the visitors, perform \*with\* our visitors. Learn 2nd person living history techniques and tricks to include the audience in our show.

Building Character (Part 1): Peter Overstreet

Learn how to create effective, believable, and "unbreakable" personalities for immersive environmental theatre. The "Temenos" method will help beginners and experienced actors, alike, craft their characters so they have a sturdy framework to build routines and scenes.

Building Character (Part 2): Peter Overstreet

**(Part 1 completion required)** This course will take the characters "built" by participants and run them through certain situations, Improv games, and other exercises to help them understand how to use the "Temenos" method to maintain flow, remain deeply entrenched in their character, and provide easy-to-read audience identity to provide the best entertainment value for the audience.

Extreme Character Engagement: Jeff Scattini

**(Physical Characterization Lecture, within the past two years, is prerequisite for this class)**

How to theatrically engage and disengage other characters in the streets without coming to blows. This workshop will engage your two selves: actor and character, so you'll know how and when to rein in your character's motives and intentions for the betterment of a scene. This class will teach you how to back down from a character-driven fight, be subtle in your one-upmanship, and give the audience a rich feeling of interwoven relationships. And you'll get to yell.

Steam & Sparks - Technology & Transition in the 19th Century: Shelley Monson & John Holmes

This class will introduce select inventions and innovations of the Victorian Age. The emphasis of the class is in integrating this information into your characterization. (How did this affect your character?) Additionally, this class will assist participants in interactions with cast members from the Adventurers' Club and the Great Exhibition Preview.

The Secrets of Mr. Dickens and His Characters: Steve Johnson & Allan Schwartz

Mr. Dickens had some personal secrets, and many of his characters had secrets. Find out what they were.

What Victorian Londoners Knew: Laura Rubin

The history of London is written in the city itself. Do you know Richmond from Greenwich? This course gives you an overview of the City as the Victorians knew it, and an overview of the things that changed their day to day lives (and that they loved to complain about!). *Offered 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday only – day 4.*

The Streets of London: Mark Shanks

Discover the diversity of the streets and neighborhoods of Dickens' London: from the mansions of Grosvenor Square to the rookeries (slums) of Seven Dials. We'll look at the various modes of transportation, the myriad occupations practiced, as well as the law and disorder happening by day and night in London's streets.

Military Matters of Victorian England: Eric Hess

Will cover military structure, customs and practices employed during the Victorian period, emphasizing development of character backgrounds, interactions between members of the military, and a historical overview of the military's place in Victorian-era London. Includes discussion and practical application. *Offered 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend only – at the Cow Palace*

How to Pass Costume Approval: Liz Martin & Juliana Gaul – (A 2 hour workshop - for new and experienced participants)

**Note: You must take both sessions (full 2 hours) to receive credit.**

Includes all the particulars for dressing in London for the years 1840-64, our Dickensian period. Includes men, women, and children of all classes and social stations; accessories, hairstyles, and footwear; some history on why fashions of the times evolved as they did. Color charts and silhouettes available for perusal. Patterns, fabric and trim swatches adjudicated for approvability and ease of construction. Advice given on repair, cleaning, and retrofitting of old costumes. A PowerPoint presentation will be shown during the first hour. In the second hour, after a short talk, the floor will be open to Q&A. Specific questions and demos may be scheduled for private or small group tutorials at other times.

Special costume workshops: Liz Martin and Alexandria Volk

“**Thrift Store Dickens**” and “**Dressing Down: The True Scum Look**”, offered on particular days. *See schedule.*

Victorian Millinery: Alexandria Volk - (A 2 hour lab)

A hands-on workshop for bonnets at any stage of progress. A full lab with instruction and support – bring your hat project.

Tying Neckwear: Jeffrey Schoenberg

Learn the proper techniques and methods of tying a variety of Victorian neckwear. (As men should be capable of lacing a corset well, ladies should be able to tie a gentleman's tie to perfection.) *Offered 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends only.*

Character Make-Up: Peter Overstreet

This brief course will cover both base stage make-up technique, and will briefly cover simple techniques on how to transform oneself into a believable character. It will include basic stage make-up, facial hair and wigs, and extreme make-ups.(scars, wrinkles and other such affects)

1850s-60s -- Hair Styles for Women: Bridget Bradley-Scaife

There can be lots of variation for hairstyles during the Mid-Victorian Era, but there was also a general look. This class will demo how to style your hair for the 1850s-60s with the use of hairpieces. You will also learn the basics of hairpieces, such as how to match your hair color, where to buy, and even how to make your own.

Carols & Songs of The Times, Place, and Season: Bob & Terri Crabb

Sings the songs of the time and season - and get a quick refresher in how not to trash your voice. Learn and sing some important songs and some just for fun. Emphasis on songs of the season with a bit of history thrown in for good measure.

Hallelujah Chorus: Bob & Terri Crabb

Sing along with the Hallelujah Chorus on your appropriate part for your vocal range. Come, even if you don't read music. Offered 1<sup>st</sup> day only – Oct 29<sup>th</sup>.

Vocal Projection: Bob Crabb

Learn breathing and support techniques to survive both singing and speaking in our challenging performance space – The Cow Palace. Taking care of your voice.

Introduction to Traditional Irish Music & Dance Forms: Shirleigh Brannon, Michael Riemer, & Edith Summers

Love music and dance? Plan to portray Dickens Irish? Either way, bring your dance shoes, instruments, a way of taking notes (if you like), and join in as Siamsa's dance and music historians share our research in the history and regional styles of the many forms of traditional Irish dance - and its accompanying music. Join in street music and dance gigs with confidence and portray period-appropriate forms of Irish dance with greater authenticity. Current scholarship in the history and evolution of traditional Irish dance, demonstrating and teaching older traditional styles and rhythms, including an introduction to beginning Irish solo dance steps and group dances. All Dickens Fair dancers and musicians welcome.

**Please note: this class is geared specifically towards adults and not well suited as a children's workshop.**

*(offered 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend only, at the Cow Palace)*

Dance (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced): Cathleen Myers

VICTORIAN DANCE 1: This is a class for newcomers as well as for experienced dancers who would like a brush-up on the Victorian rotary (turning) waltz and polka – our two essential Fezziwig dances. Emphasizes dance safety and partnering, and will also include the essential figures of the Grand March.

VICTORIAN DANCE 2: Prerequisite: Victorian Dance 1 or ability to dance the turning waltz and polka. Dances to be taught include the dashing Military Schottische and the Bronco, the elegant polka mazurka and polka redowa, the Esmeralda Polka, and a review of the wildly popular “Congress of Vienna Waltz.” The class will emphasize partnering and Victorian ballroom etiquette that everyone who visits Fezziwig's should know!

VICTORIAN DANCE 3: Prerequisite: Victorian Dance 2 or intermediate to advanced level social dance skills. Dances will include variations on the Victorian waltz, polka, mazurka waltz, including the redowa and Varsouvienne, and some of the special dance choreographies danced in Fezziwig's, including the Lancers' Quadrille, the original “French Quadrille, the Bohemian National Polka, and the Coppelia Mazurka Waltz. The class will emphasize partnering and period style.

Dark Garden Window Workshop: Autumn Adamme

The Dark Garden corset modeling workshop this year will be required of "new" models only. **If you are interested in modeling for us this year, but did not model last year, or if you modeled for the first time last year, please plan to attend this workshop.** Our experienced models need only turn in a completed model worksheet at the Dark Garden booth in the Cow Palace on dress rehearsal Sunday, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (See note below.)

Corset Lacing: Autumn Adamme

Have you been asked to lace a lady, only to find your fingers tangled in knots? This workshop will debunk corset myths and educate you as to the proper ins and outs of ribbon and grommet. This workshop will include hands-on practice with real corsets and offers vital information gleaned from over 20 years corset lacing experience, and with a review of the underpinnings worn in all walks of Victorian life. (See note below.)

**Note: The Dark Garden workshops are only given once, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods respectively: Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Beverage Workshop: Carol Goodman

A required preparation workshop **\* for Beverage personnel only \***. Offered only once – during rehearsal sessions: (1:30-4:00) on 1<sup>st</sup> day, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. -- Room 109.