



# School of Playback Theatre

United Kingdom

## The Advanced Practitioners Certificate in Playback Theatre

From November 2019, SPT (UK) is running a series of Level 2 weekend trainings which brings those who have had a foundation experience in Playback Theatre\* up to the Level 3 Advanced Practitioners' level of competence in Playback Theatre

Those who have prior Playback training and/or experience are welcome to join in at various stages.

This course provides a thorough foundation in Playback Theatre supporting excellent practice with core values and principles.

\*Completed the Level 1 Core Training or have at least 6 months experience in an actively practicing Playback Theatre group

*Playback theatre is an original form of improvisational theatre in which audience members tell stories from their lives and watch them enacted on the spot. Founded in 1975, playback theatre is practiced in hundreds of locations and contexts around the world, as a powerful way of enabling dialogue and building communities of understanding.*

*The School of Playback Theatre (UK) is affiliated with the Centre for Playback Theatre (USA) and offers a comprehensive training for all levels of experience.*

*These range from first level Core Training for newcomers, to second level Special Topics, and then to our third level Advanced Practitioners course. This prepares you for the Level 4 Leadership Course and graduation from the Centre of Playback Theatre.*

### November 2019 – August 2020

- The Level 2 Special Topic Residential weekend trainings take place on 15-17 November 2019; and 14-16 February, 17-19 April, 12-14 June and 10-12 July 2020 at The Claret Centre, Buckden, Cambridgeshire PE19 5TA. The 7-8 March training is a two-day non-residential weekend hosted in Devon (fee and venue TBC).
- Students must undertake **at least 5** of these Special Topic weekends and the Advanced Practitioners' Intensive in order to qualify for the Certificate.
- Each weekend begins from 6pm on Friday evening with early supper, and ends on Sunday at 3.30pm. Accommodation is in shared rooms. There is a single room supplement of £15.
- **These weekends are 'Open to Guests'**: Experienced playbackers are welcome to attend the Special Topic weekends on a one-off basis, for professional development & refreshment of practice.
- Those who already have substantial experience in Playback Theatre may wish to join the Advanced Practitioner's Certificate course, and may qualify for **exemptions** from some of the Level 2 weekends. We will negotiate this with you. Talk to us.
- The Level 3 residential training (7-days/7-nights) takes place from 2-9 August 2020 at The Claret Centre, Buckden, Cambridgeshire PE19 5TA, and is a full immersion into group process and Playback Theatre practice.





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- **All courses will run with two trainers** who are graduates of the Centre of Playback Theatre (NY, USA) and highly experienced playback theatre practitioners.
- Participants on the Certificate course will also be **required to complete an essay**.

### FEES

Core Training residential: £695

Special Topic residential weekends: £375

Deepening the Practice Residential: £995

Fee reduction is available according to need. Please contact us to discuss.

## DATES & TOPICS

### 2019

Nov 15-17 Special Topic: **MUSIC & MOVEMENT**

Nov 15-17 Special Topic: **CONDUCTING STORIES OF TRAUMA & LOSS**

### 2020

Feb 14-16 Special Topic: **THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF CONDUCTING**

\*Mar 7-8 Special Topic: **CONDUCTING - SPONTANEITY & RITUAL**

Apr 17-19 Special Topic: **FACETS OF THE STORY**

Jun 26-28 Special Topic: **STARTING & MAINTAINING A PT GROUP AND DEVELOPING HEALTHY 'COMPANY LIFE'**

Jul 10-12 Special Topic: **WORKING WITH DIVERSE GROUPS & CONTEXTS**

Aug 4-11 Level 3: **DEEPENING THE PRACTICE**

\*A two-day non-residential weekend training hosted in Devon. Fee & Venue to be confirmed.

### About the Courses

#### **Music & Movement**

Music in Playback Theatre is very powerful for its artistic contribution to the performance on the one hand; and also for its role in managing the frame, process and rhythm of a whole event. This weekend we also work with our body response to story and to each other on stage, exploring movement as artistic vocabulary alongside music.

#### **Conducting: Stories of Trauma & Loss**

Playback Theatre can offer empowerment and relief for people with stories about crisis and in traumatic situations. These stories can come 'out of nowhere' as a story during a regular performance or 'pop out' in a workshop. And there are also times when we are ready for these stories to emerge, and places where the events dictate that these stories will come.

In this workshop Aviva & Davina will share their experience, look at what conditions we need to create for best outcomes, how to work with the Tellers and their stories, and how to reflect these



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back in ways which empower the tellers and the audience. We will explore ways to handle these stories when they come from children and young people, as well as with adults, whether in a workshop or within a performance.

### **The Nuts and Bolts of Conducting**

A key role in the Playback Theatre process, this weekend will support deeper understanding and practice: learning how to manage transitions over the course of a whole event; moving from conductor/actor introductions to audience moments and linking from one moment to the next; inviting stories from teller to teller, story to story, and on to ending a performance. How do you bring your full self into the many roles of a conductor, developing presence, managing rhythm, context & content?

### **Conducting: Spontaneity & Ritual**

A key role in the Playback Theatre process, this weekend will support deeper understanding and practice: how to be 'in the moment' with the collective experience as well as holding and containing the process, managing transitions from one moment to the next; inviting stories from teller to teller, story to story, and on to ending a performance. Our trainers will work with your individual needs and level of experience.

### **Facets of the Story**

We will take this time to listen more deeply for the heart of the story - discerning and highlighting multiple perspectives. What is the key aspect to portray on stage? Another immersion into acting and stagecraft this weekend we will expand our personal and collective sensitivities and performative potentials.

### **Starting & Maintaining a PT Group and Developing Healthy 'Company Life'**

It is an interesting and wonderful characteristic of Playback Theatre that groups stay together for many years. We tell our personal stories in our practice – and learn much about life from the gift of our mutual sharing – and will also sometimes be challenged in managing relationships within the group over time. We call this Company Life – moving through the Ups and Downs with deep satisfaction as well as endurance! So good attention to group process as well as artistic development is essential for healthy, happy & productive Playback theatre groups. Alison & Amanda have a wealth of experience to enlighten and empower us to generate the best shared outcome. This weekend is for new as well highly experienced Playbackers. Come!

### **Working with Diverse Groups and Contexts**

At the very beginning of Playback Theatre, the original group, our first teachers, created this form with the intention to reach out to our communities in all its colours, shapes and sizes. Over the years we, the many of us in regular practice, have accumulated experience and understanding on how to do this with respect and effectiveness. This workshop opens our eyes to ourselves, each other and to issues of privilege, difference, awareness of social dynamics and subgroups, and will empower our Playback Theatre work in this complicated and richly diverse world we live in.

### **Deepening the Practice**

This is the final course for our Advanced Practitioner Certificate Course students and a time to immerse and practice, gathering the fruits of the training so far.

- *The Advanced Practitioner's course is also open to any playbackers who have had at least 2 years of active practice with a group. Contact us to discuss eligibility.*
- *Some playbackers with sufficient experience would be welcome to attend without undertaking the certificate course if they wish.*