

Theatre de l'Ange Fou

presents



The White Church THEATRE PROJECT

Directors: Steven Wasson & Corinne Soum

2015 Season

Spring Green, Wisconsin

The Theatre de l'Ange Fou presents their 2015 White Church Theatre Project season with performances, workshops, lectures and films at their theatre in the Wyoming Valley Church situated in the countryside near Spring Green, Wisconsin.

The directors Steven Wasson, American, and Corinne Soum, French, met in Paris in the early 80's. Steven began his mime and physical theatre studies in 1976 with Dr. E. Reid Gilbert and Thomas Leabhart at The Valley Studio (Spring Green). This led him to Paris where he met Corinne; both were students, and later on the last assistants of the 'father of modern mime' Etienne Decroux. In 1984, Steven and Corinne created their company, the Theatre de l'Ange Fou, and their school, the International School of Corporeal Mime. After moving to London in 1995, the company and school are now permanently located in USA with The White Church Theater Project.

The Theatre de l'Ange Fou has toured throughout Europe, Russia, The United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, India, Japan and the middle east. The Theatre de l'Ange Fou has created many original plays and adaptations, ranging from duets to large ensemble work: *The Little Dictator - parts I & II*, *Beyond The Garden*, *Crusade*, *Entangled Lives*, *The Government Inspector*, *The Orpheus Complex*, *Across the Seven Seas*,

Waiting for Ulysses... They also specialise in the repertoire of Etienne Decroux with their play *The Man Who Preferred to Stand*, and the lecture performance *A Promethean Dream*.

The work of Theatre de l'Ange Fou, company Steven Wasson and Corinne Soum, has been described by the London Sunday Times as, 'A beautifully staged, atmospheric piece of total theatre.' And by the Scotsman: 'If Beckett had ever produced a ballet, it would have looked something like this.'

Having always dreamed of establishing a home for the company and the school in the U.S., Steven Wasson, Corinne Soum and the Theatre de l'Ange Fou purchased the Wyoming Valley Church in 2011 and refurbished the property, preserving the integrity of this local landmark. In 2015, they donated the property to the White Church Theatre Project.

The goal of the White Church Theatre Project, and it's company in residence, the Theatre de l'Ange Fou, is to create events dedicated to the multi-faceted world of mime and physical theatre, and to continue the preservation and improvement of the Wyoming Vally Church.

"Memory of Dust" Directed by Steven Wasson. Performed by Corinne Soum and Steven Wasson

The latest duet by the Theatre de l'Ange Fou, "Memory of Dust" is a modernist fable on the enduring connection of two souls. Letters, words, poems, paper weave a timeless map on which a woman encounters the shadows of her life. This work is a dialogue between Etienne Decroux's piece "La Meditation" and the world of the Theatre de l'Ange Fou. "Memory of Dust" is a voyage evoking the tragic and absurd moments of destiny in a dream atmosphere punctuated by humor and derision, a portrait of the 'unknown familiar'.

Performances in July:	Saturday 11 (7pm), Sunday 12 (4pm), Monday 13 (7pm), Monday 20 (7pm)
	Saturday 25 (7pm), Sunday 26 (4pm), Monday 27 (7pm),
Performances in August:	Monday 3 (7pm), Friday 7 (7pm), Saturday 8 (7pm), Sunday 9 (4pm)
	Monday 10 (7pm), Saturday 15 (7pm), Sunday 16 (4pm)

Recommended Donation: \$15

FILMS:

"The Penelope Complex" Written and Directed by Steven Wasson

This film was shot over a period of five years in the London studio of the Theatre de l'Ange Fou and on location throughout England, France and Japan. "The Penelope Complex" is part of the Theatre de l'Ange Fou's exploration of mythological themes, and was started prior to the production of their play "Waiting for Ulysses". The film uses the resources offered by corporeal mime with a cast of 25 mime actors trained by the Theatre de l'Ange Fou. The adventures of Ulysses are transposed into the confines of the "House of Ithaca Asylum for the Mythologically Deranged." The different landscapes are the many beds of the asylum, the gods and demons are personified by inmates and the asylum personnel, and the sea is an ocean of torn newspapers. This surrealistic choreography with a colourful soundscape looks to be performed by long forgotten characters of the silent screen.

July: Friday 17 & Friday 24 (7pm) August: Thursday 6 and Friday 14 (7pm)

Recommended Donation: \$10

Homage to Dominique Benicheti (1943-2011), a visionary filmmaker"

"Cousin Jules" Directed by Dominique Benicheti (English subtitles)

Introduction by Steven Wasson

An ode to the simple pleasures of life, "Cousin Jules" is a beautiful, immersive portrait of a blacksmith living with his wife on a small farm in the French Countryside. Shot in Cinemascope, the film meticulously captures their daily rituals – she fires up the oven, grinds the coffee beans, fetches water from the well, he stokes the forge, hammers the iron – and transforms it into a bucolic symphony of sound and image. Lost for nearly 40 years and now exquisitely restored, "Cousin Jules" is a timeless masterpiece, a record of a place and a way of life that has long ago vanished.

July: Tuesday 14 (7pm), Tuesday 28 (7pm) August: Tuesday 11 (7pm)

Recommended Donation: \$10

The White Church Theatre Project is made possible by funds provided by the Wisconsin Arts Board, the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition, the BMO Harris Bank, the Alec Van Berchem Trust, Mrs Doris Wasson and Ms Aude Gotto.

INTENSIVE SUMMER SCHOOL

July 6 – 18: Monday through Saturday, 10am to 2pm. Price \$450
July 20 – 31: Monday through Saturday, 10am to 2pm. Price \$450

The White Church THEATRE Project Intensive Summer School 2015 is designed for the professional and pre-professional actors, dancers, mimes and performers wishing to give a physical reality to their own ideas. Corporeal Mime, created by Etienne Decroux, is an innovative method and precise technique focusing on the body and physical action in theatre. The summer school sessions will focus on the repertoire of Etienne Decroux: "A Modern Mythology" and the "Poetic Dramaturgy in Corporeal Mime."

Participants will study pieces chosen from the repertoire of Etienne Decroux such as The Factory, The Touch, The Carpenter, The Washerwoman, the Chair of the Absent One, The Combat... and from the postmodern repertoire pieces such as The Chair, The Newspaper. In the history of time, the pieces of Etienne Decroux stand unique as a sort of modern mythology of movement theatre from which performers and teachers may draw a theatrical dynamism and method for the creation of personal work.

During the summer sessions the training will approach the notion of a contemporary mime dramaturgy. The creative process in Corporeal Mime is called by Etienne Decroux, "La Métaphore à l'Envers" (the Reverse Metaphor): trusting the action to progressively devise a play. Different poetic texts will be used as the starting point to devise creative material. Technique and repertoire of corporeal mime will be the backbone of this exploration in composition.

The creative work of the summer sessions will be presented in front of an invited audience. Participants are welcome to follow one or both summer school sessions. Different repertoire pieces will be covered in the two sessions, and the performance compositions will be devised around different themes or poetic texts.

There is a \$50 discount for participants wishing to follow both sessions.

THEORY SEMINAR:

"Etienne Decroux and his Theatre Laboratory"

Marco De Marinis, theatre professor, historian and author from the University of Bologna in Italy has expressed his deep interest in the White Church Theatre Project, and will hold a theory seminar on Etienne Decroux and a presentation of his newly published book "Etienne Decroux and his Theatre Laboratory".

Marco De Marinis has written numerous books and articles on the semiotic of performance, the twentieth century theatrical experience and the development of a multidisciplinary new theatre. Marco has a unique knowledge and historical perspective on the life and work of Etienne Decroux.

Presentation of his book "Etienne Decroux and his Theatre Laboratory"

August 1st. 6pm–7pm, followed by a reception.
Recommended donation \$15.

Theory Seminar "Etienne Decroux, Director/Pedagogue of the 20th Century"

Saturday August 1st, 12–3pm, and Sunday August 2nd, 11am–2pm.
Fee for Seminar \$100 (for Summer School participants \$70).

HOW TO ENROLL

The application form and payment details are available from our website www.angefou.co.uk on the White Church THEATRE Project page: www.angefou.co.uk/training_programme.html

Where is the White Church THEATRE Project taking place?

Wyoming Valley Church, 6348 State Road 23, Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588 USA
(5 miles south of Spring Green off Highway 23 – see map, right)
Tel: 1 815 441 8828

The church is just down the road from Taliesin (taliesinpreservation.org) the home and school of the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and near the summer residence of The American Players Theatre (americanplayers.org). The Wyoming Valley is the home of many artists and cultural events including the Wyoming Valley School (wyomingvalleyschool.blogspot.com) and the Rural Musicians Forum (ruralmusiciansforum.org).

Accommodation:

Please contact the Spring Green and Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce for Motel, Bed and Breakfast, and camping facilities.

www.springgreen.com and www.dodgeville.com

Alternatively we can put you in contact with people wishing to rent rooms during the Summer School period.

Theatre de l'Ange Fou

Email: infoschool@angefou.co.uk

www.angefou.co.uk and www.thewhitechurchtheatre.org

The White Church THEATRE Project is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization. You can help support the White Church THEATRE Project by making a tax deductible donation or gift.
Design: www.paulmckenziestudio.co.uk

DURING THE SUMMER SCHOOL 2015 AT THE WYOMING VALLEY CHURCH:

Opening Party:

Friday July 3rd, from 6pm onwards.

Presentation of the Summer Season 2015, 7pm

Presentation of the creative work of Intensive Summer School sessions:

– July 18th, Saturday 7pm.

– July 31st, Friday 7pm.

Recommended donation: \$15

PERFORMANCES BY INVITED GUESTS:

Performance Reading: E. REID GILBERT

"BITS & PIECES", Short Stories from a Long Life...

Mime actor, director, teacher, writer and poet, REID GILBERT was the founder of the Wisconsin Mime Theatre and the Valley Studio, and will be reading from his newest book, BITS & PIECES, short stories from a long life.

Wednesday JULY 8, 7pm.

Performance Poet: MICHAEL DA COSTA

"EBB AND FLOW" (Vicissitudes of a would-be spiritual aspirant...)

A concert of songs, poems, dramatic monologues and dialogues, written and performed by MICHAEL DA COSTA. The songs and poems and performance pieces selected for this concert express some of the struggles and inner conflicts, as well as the joy and laughter, experienced on a spiritual journey.

Michael Da Costa is a counselor and co-founder of the Norwich, U.K. Centre for counseling and spiritual development. He is also a poet and a songwriter, who has performed in many venues around the world, and has recorded with musicians such as Pete Townshend and Ronnie Lane. The poems of Michael have been a great inspiration for the Theatre de l'Ange Fou, and will be used in the composition class during the two summer school training workshops.

Wednesday, JULY 22, 7pm & Thursday, JULY 23, 7pm.

Performance Poet: ROB EVISON

"Back in Australia, the most East of the West..."

A performance piece, juggling text and movement, inspired by Australian poet Francis Brabazon's masterpiece, STAY WITH GOD.

Born in 1983, ROB EVISON has studied music & literature at the Australian National University, physical theatre with Annie Stainer in Perth and worked in children's theatre in western Australia. Moving to London in 2009, he studied at the International School of Corporeal Mime graduating in 2011, and was invited by directors Steven Wasson & Corinne Soum to join the Theatre de l'Ange Fou.

Thursday JULY 16 (7pm), Wednesday JULY 29 (7pm) & Wednesday AUGUST 5 (7pm).

Recommended donation for all performances: \$15

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

In March, April and May: for information please go to the website: www.angefou.co.uk

FULL TIME TRAINING STARTING IN THE FALL 2015:

Dates and enrollment will be available on the website.

Closest Airports:

The closest major airports are in Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago.

From Chicago O'Hare Airport, the Van Galder Bus has an hourly service to 800 University Av. Madison, WI: www.coachusa.com/vangalder

(Look under Scheduled Services > O'Hare Airport for details, departure times, ticket prices and to buy tickets online.)

From Mitchell Airport, Milwaukee, Badger Bus runs every 2 hours or so to: 700 University Av. Madison, WI: www.badgerbus.com/tickets/schedule.aspx

(Select Mitchell Airport as the departure point and Madison Area, UW Madison – Chazen Museum as the arrival point for details.)

If you need transportation from Madison to Spring Green, a car can be arranged to pick you up at the Madison bus stop.

