

From the beginning, the mask has always been a representation. It could be of a divine face, human or animal, heroic, terrifying or comic. At the same time, it erases the features of the wearer and is endowed with a magical value because it allows the metamorphosis of an individual, made different from oneself and invested with new powers.

The workshop conducted by Frédéric Simon, Director Alliance Française on 11th July 2019 from 10 am to 5 pm gave students an insight on mobilization and relationship with different parts of the body. The workshop began on a warm up session. Using a neutral mask, we were given activities that focused on flow of energy, balance between vigor and gentleness, fluidity and tension.



Mr Simon discussed about the history of theatre in France, the studies and curriculum involved in pursuing the arts. He also presented popular characters from Italian theatre using authentic leather bound commedia dell'arte masks. Here's to name a few-

1) Pantalone- The mask denotes a character of an old merchant, often wealthy and esteemed, at other times completely ruined, yet always an old man in every detail, with business skills. His mask typically highlighted his physical characteristics including a hooked nose and prominent eyebrows.

2) Il Dottore in Commedia dell'Arte is usually dressed in the traditional style of a medieval doctor. He is a comic personage originally from "well-fed and learned" Bologna. He is a 'doctor' only in name and is depicted at times as a learned physician and at other times as a notary or lawyer.

3) Arlequin's role is that of a faithful valet or servant, but in this context he is also the clown, the acrobat providing lots of comic relief! While undertaking errands for his master or pursuing a pretty lady (or both!) he gets into all manner of strife. His absent mindedness is legendary all while, his boundless energy causes his supple body to undertake somersaults, handstands, cartwheels and all sorts of acrobatic feats! Understandably, a loved character.



The workshop was well appreciated and enjoyed by the students who found themselves reinvigorated at the end of the day.



Le Cercle Littéraire,

Alliance Française de Bombay and

the Centre for European Studies, University of Mumbai

invite you to a workshop

Masque et Jeu physique

by Frédéric SIMON (Director, Alliance Française de Bombay)

Venue - Le Cercle littéraire (Kala Ghoda, Mumbai)

Date - July 11, 2019 (Thursday)

Time - 2 pm to 5 pm

Workshop in French (Level B2 and above)

Registration Compulsory

Limited Seats

For registering, please send an email to communication.mumbai@afindia.org