



Susan Main
Designated Linklater Teacher
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Ragnar Freidank
Master Michael Chekhov Acting Teacher
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Chasing Shadows, Dreams & David Lynch

An Acting Intensive Exploring Voice, Character & the Camera

Thursday August 12th - Sunday August 15th

11am-5pm in New York City

co-taught by

SUSAN MAIN & **RAGNAR FREIDANK**
Designated Linklater Voice Teacher Master Michael Chekhov Acting Teacher

During any given moment we often experience conflicting voices and/or impulses. As actors we put pressure on ourselves to be honest/authentic/truthful but how do we know which voice or impulse is the “right” one to follow? We would like to offer the possibility that CREATIVE ENERGY can lie in the OBSTACLES we run from, the very things we say NO to. During this journey into the wild imagination of David Lynch’s screenplays, we will deconstruct our perceived realities, play with obstacles that arise and follow them to a place of creative freedom.

The Many Voices That Are Us

Susan will lead vocal explorations of the screenplays to expand your emotional and psychophysical range while truly embodying the language of Lynch’s worlds. She will encourage space for the impulses you might normally deny. Your voice is powerful enough to sustain it all—the good, the bad and the ugly—which for an actor is not only valid but essential. Susan’s work is based on the Linklater Voice Technique designed to “free your natural voice” and empower you to express a vast range of emotion while also revealing the subtlest nuances of thought.

Dreams, Ghosts, Angels & Demons

What happens to you when you are being observed? What do you “choose” to reveal? What do you hide? What remains hidden even from yourself? As an actor you have the ability to follow hidden impulses (even the ones you judge) and turn them into CHARACTER. By noticing all the aspects of your own unique experience and by following them into the life of the character you are embodying, your performance will be richer and truly original. Ragnar’s work is grounded in Michael Chekhov’s Acting Technique.

Projections

In situations where we feel threatened/nervous/shut down, whom or what do we project our fears/hopes/blame onto? By using a camera and projector, we will transform the room into a “dream” space where live projections will serve as additional tools to explore our characters and interact with our inner experiences. We will endeavor to embrace the possibility that revealing *is* the creative act.

Space is limited

Fee is \$560 (\$250 non-refundable deposit due upon registration; credit cards accepted - surcharge may apply)

To register or if you have any questions at all, please contact Salomé at: smkrell@gmail.com

(biographies & testimonials on next page)



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Biographies

RAGNAR FREIDANK is from Germany. He was trained as a mime and holds an MFA in Acting from the Conservatory of Music and Theatre in Hamburg. He received a scholarship from Villigst (Germany) to study the Michael Chekhov Technique in New York City. His long time teachers were Ted Pugh and Fern Sloan, with whom he subsequently collaborated for many years in The Actors' Ensemble, most recently directing *Eugene's Ghosts*, a Live Filming Event of O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Ragnar has worked as an actor and director in Germany, and has performed in Budapest, London, Stockholm and New York. He has taught in the Graduate Acting Programs of Columbia University and The New School. He has also taught in Italy at the Stromboli Project, a summer theatre institute on the Aeolian island of Stromboli, and teaches regularly in Tokyo for Kazuki Takase's Theatre Japan Productions. As a master teacher for MICHA (Michael Chekhov Association) he continues to teach at international conferences throughout Europe and North America. He co-directed *Master Classes in the Michael Chekhov Technique*, MICHA's DVD series published by Routledge, and recently directed the award-winning film *Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn*, starring Joanna Merlin, recently released on DVD (for more info: www.beautifulhillsofbrooklyn.com). This summer he will direct a film based on *Eugene's Ghosts*.

SUSAN MAIN is an actress and Designated Linklater Voice Teacher based in New York City. She currently serves on the faculties of the Actor's Studio MFA program at Pace University and the Linklater Center for Voice & Language. Susan is the co-founder and co-director of the Stromboli Project, a summer theatre institute on the Aeolian island of Stromboli, Italy. She also works actively as a private vocal coach in New York City and abroad, regularly conducting voice workshops and classes in New York City, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Susan's students include politicians, corporate executives, Broadway, film and television actors. Her recent credits include serving as vocal coach for the art dance piece, *A Quarreling Pair*, for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's 25th Anniversary Season, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. She has taught voice and/or movement on the faculties of New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Emerson College and Boston Conservatory. She has worked as a voice coach for theatre companies in Italy and Portugal. In 2005, she co-produced and served as script supervisor on the documentary *Giving Voice – Kristin Linklater, 15 Actors and 7 Tales from Ovid*, filmed in Stromboli, Italy, featuring world-renowned voice teacher Kristin Linklater. This summer Susan will be vocal coaching the Off-Broadway production of *Hedda Gabler*, directed by John Gould Rubin. She holds an MFA in Theatre Education specializing in voice and movement from Boston University.

Testimonials

I am visited by memories of the startling creativity that came out of me in Susan and Ragnar's workshop, and the memories delight me! They created a space whereby an innate and brave creativity evolved, challenging and surprising, deepening a trust in the mystery and love of what it is to perform. Both of these teachers work in a way that courageously enters into the creative experience. Their way is not the old model of teacher telling how; it instead invites something real to happen from everyone present. -Louise O'Dwyer, Actor, Australia

Through working with Ragnar and Susan I encountered many wonderful moments and discovered many things about myself. But the most wonderful gift the experience gave me was not the answers I was looking for, but rather the questions I really want to ask. -Keizo Kaji, Actor, Japan

I don't know how to put into words how thankful I am - joining Susan's & Ragnar's presence. Two weeks of incredible new experiences that opened a new universe. For me, Acting got a new freedom. A MUST if you wish to increase your acting skills, also for directors somehow... -Sabine Wolf, Actor/Director, Germany

The workshop was like a breath of fresh air for me. There was a sense of pure freedom to explore a sometimes overlooked impulse and immerse yourself in it without hesitation. Ragnar and Susan gave us just enough guidance, letting us feel our way through the moment; giving the unknown of each situation the chance to become the experience. It was an experience of brilliance and harmony between all, and the care, joy and delicacy Susan and Ragnar put into it was exceptional. -Sophia von Haefen, Actor, New York City

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