

Manual Cinema Workshop

The Manual Cinema Workshop: This hands-on workshop focuses on Manual Cinema's approach to storytelling and our "live cinema" techniques. The workshop begins with an overview of how the company creates shows from story idea to full production. Then the workshop participants will get on their feet at the overhead projectors and behind the screens to deconstruct and stage a short sequence from a Manual Cinema show in order to learn the puppetry techniques and cinematic language that the company has invented. Then the students devise short, narrative shows of their own using the company's equipment and puppets. The workshop ends with performances (by the participants) followed by discussion and critique. This workshop usually runs 2 hours, but it can be shortened to 90 minutes or lengthened to 3 hours. Manual Cinema also teaches full day workshops or multi-day workshops that dive more deeply into their puppetry, music, and storytelling techniques.

The capacity for this workshop is based on the number of overhead projectors available. For Ada/ Ava, No Blue Memories, and Lula del Ray engagements, the company travels with 6 projectors - workshops can include up to 18 participants. For Mementos Mori engagements, the company travels with 8 projectors - workshops can include up to 24 participants. For My Soul's Shadow engagements, the company travels with 7 projectors - workshops can include up to 22 participants. (Greater capacity is possible when the host is able to provide more overhead projectors.)

Workshops take place on the company's equipment onstage at the venue.

In addition, the artists of Manual Cinema are happy to devise workshops around the topics of contemporary puppetry, interdisciplinary ensemble work, and arts business/running a collective in the 21st century. They have taught short 1-hour workshops, day-long workshops, and also full semester classes (at the University of Chicago). Co- Artistic Director Sarah Fornace is happy to be directly in contact with the professors to devise workshops that best fit their syllabus.

NOTE: As the workshops require use of the company's equipment, they cannot be held during load-in or tech hours. It is best to hold the workshops on the stage/performance space once load-in (and a certain amount of tech) has occurred.