

The Manual Cinema Workshop

Note: Workshops take place on the company's equipment onstage at the venue. As the workshops require use of the company's equipment, they cannot be held during load-in or tech hours. Workshops can only occur after load-in and tech has occurred.

The Manual Cinema Workshop usually runs 2 hours, but it can be shortened to 90 minutes or lengthened to 3 hours.

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.

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 and Frankenstein engagements, the company travels with 8-10 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.

Manual Cinema also teaches full day workshops, multi-day workshops, or semester-long classes that dive more deeply into their puppetry, music, and storytelling techniques. These longer teaching residencies require the presence of artistic directors or company members.