



## THE LAUGHTER SEMINAR / WORKSHOP

(see also: <http://www.acto.com.pt>)



## THE LAUGHTER

The Laughter is an active research centered on the comical side of human experience. It is not necessarily a humorous object nor a simple philosophic consideration on human ludicrousness. It is more the result of a process in which each performer's memory of laughter will play a major role. Laughter and that which is comical are things that appear daily, mainly as an interruption — one asks for permission, for example, to tell certain jokes. As Peter Berger refers in his essay on laughter, “En la vida corriente, cotidiana, lo cómico suele aparecer, por lo tanto, de costumbre, como una intrusión, que se entromete, a menudo de manera inesperada, en otros segmentos de la realidad, los que coloquialmente se designan como serios” (p.30). Thus, The Laughter is conceived as an aesthetic object that is structured by a constant interruption and superimposition of various examples of comicality, such examples being the result of what each body-memory has to share, question and taunt.

The Laughter is a double search process: on the one hand, it aims at researching and reflecting on ideas, works, essays and conventions on comicality and on what is funny, on the other hand, it wants each performer to relive or make up comical moments of his/her life whilst questioning their intensity and scope. Both these sides of the search process are shown interacting with each other. Once more, both place the characterization of what is a human activity in the centre of preoccupations. If it is true that motivation and movement found in the latter are always physical and intellectual, in the same manner, as stated by Berger, “La risa es claramente un fenómeno en el que intervienen el cuerpo y la mente” (p.90).

In brief, The Laughter aims at being a number of acting situations where the nature of human beings is questioned, either as homo ridens or as homo ridiculus. However, it must be mentioned that the aim is not to create an aesthetic object, as such, to make one laugh, nor an aesthetic object of a philosophical nature. The main aim is to motivate a search by the performers and the artistic team regarding the nature of human laughter.

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## OBJECTIVES:

This Seminar / Workshop constitutes a practical research and investigation work about human behavior and its performative utilization. Its objectives, more than the development of the practical and reflexive work of research and investigation in the performing arts, consists in acquainting the participants to the mechanisms of laughing, in its active (homo ridiculus) and passive (homo ridens) aspects and to the strategies of the comic behavior. The materials resulting from the Seminar/ Workshop may eventually be used in the construction of a performance.

## MEANS OF INTERVENTION:

- Initiation to Clown Technique;
- Laughing Exercises;
- Acting according to Physical Actions methodology.

## PROGRAM:

From Monday to Friday, from 09.00 to 12.00 and from 14.00 to 19.00. Total: 40 hours.